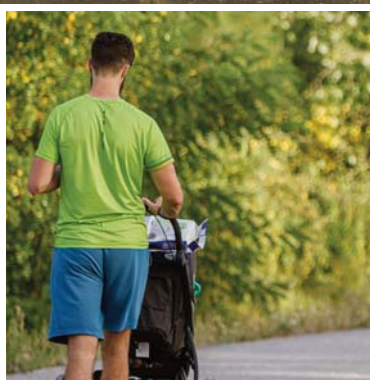


ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLAND CONCEPT

Summary of public
involvement



OBSAH

Summary

| **Rohan and Libeň Island Concept** / Summary of public involvement

— Area description

01 / The Territory of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

02 / Locations of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

— User's Perspective

03 / Involvement of Key Players of the Rohan and Libeň Island

04 / Users of Rohan and Libeň islands / Field interviews

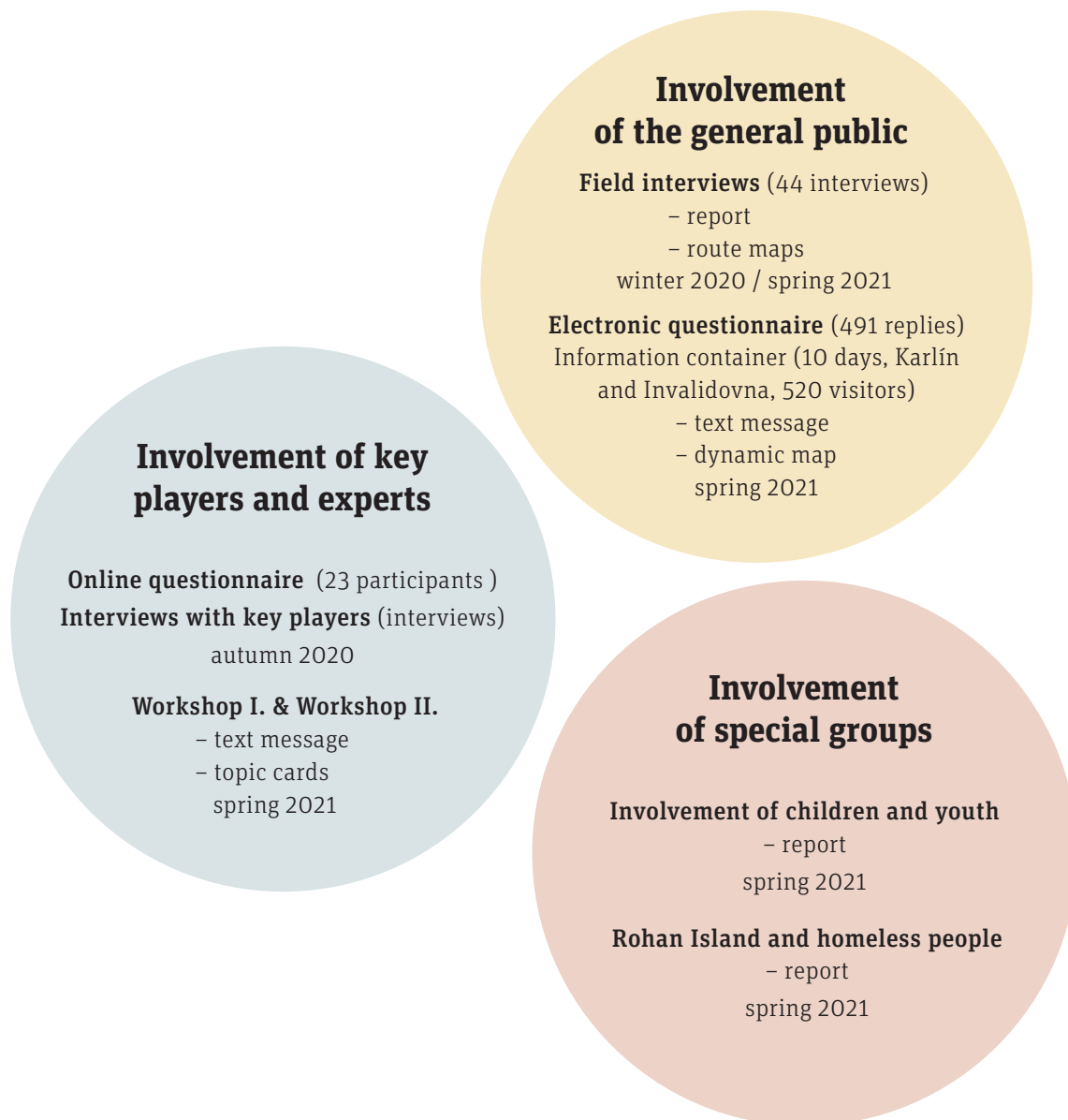
05 / The Present and Future of Rohan and Libeň islands
/ Through the eyes of children and students

— Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Activities

The various participatory activities involved in preparing the Rohan and Libeň Island Concept can be divided into three areas, depending on the type of target group engaged. The largest group was the **general public**. Greater care and a deeper level of involvement was provided to local **key actors**. A special focus was then placed on two topics and groups that are usually given little to no voice during similar activities – i.e. children and youth and the homeless.



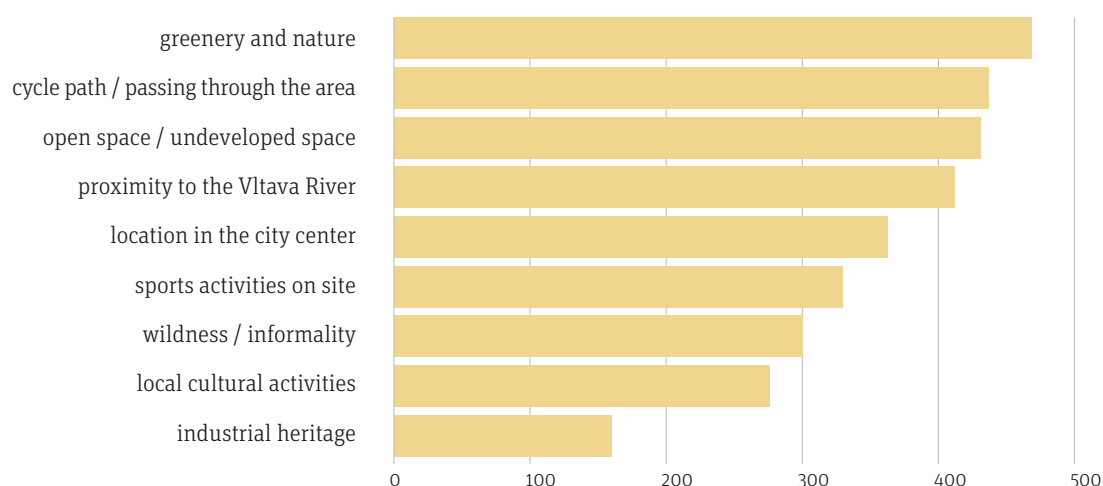
The participatory process also had other objectives apart from data collection. Here this meant a public information campaign, building a closer relationship to the location, topic and community in question. Activities included further events in which the project tried to involve the public from the surrounding area and Prague in general.

- Project presentation at CAMP (December 2020)
- Rohan Island Exhibition (April to October 2021)
- Orienteering on Rohan and Libeň islands
- Guided walks and other themed events

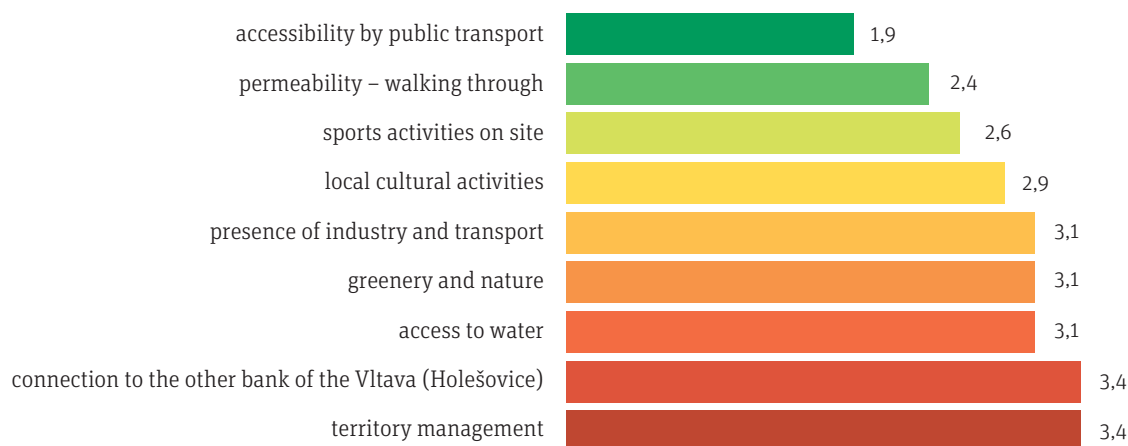
Territory features

Most people view the area of the Rohan and Libeň Island as a place **bursting with greenery and nature**. This perception also overrides the actual **proximity** of the Vltava **River** itself, which may be because access to the water is currently very poor (high banks, vegetation). A significant feature of the area is the cycle path, which significantly determines the perception of a large part of the territory. The vast majority of visitors to the area view it from the cycle path and do not venture into the surrounding terrain. “I also see it more as a trail and its surroundings than anything else.” The area is heavily used for daily trips (walks as well as commuting to work or school) and few paths end in the area. These are directed towards activities such as clubs, culture or gardening. People’s perception of history (i.e. mainly **industrial heritage**) is an interesting issue – their **views are not uniform**. People most often see this as a neutral feature, but there are sizable groups of “enthusiasts” and “opponents”. To some extent, this may also reflect personal preference (should it remain or to be abandoned). **Wildness and informality** are evaluated similarly. Again, this is more of a mid-range evaluation.

Main characteristics of the area [electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]



Territory evaluation

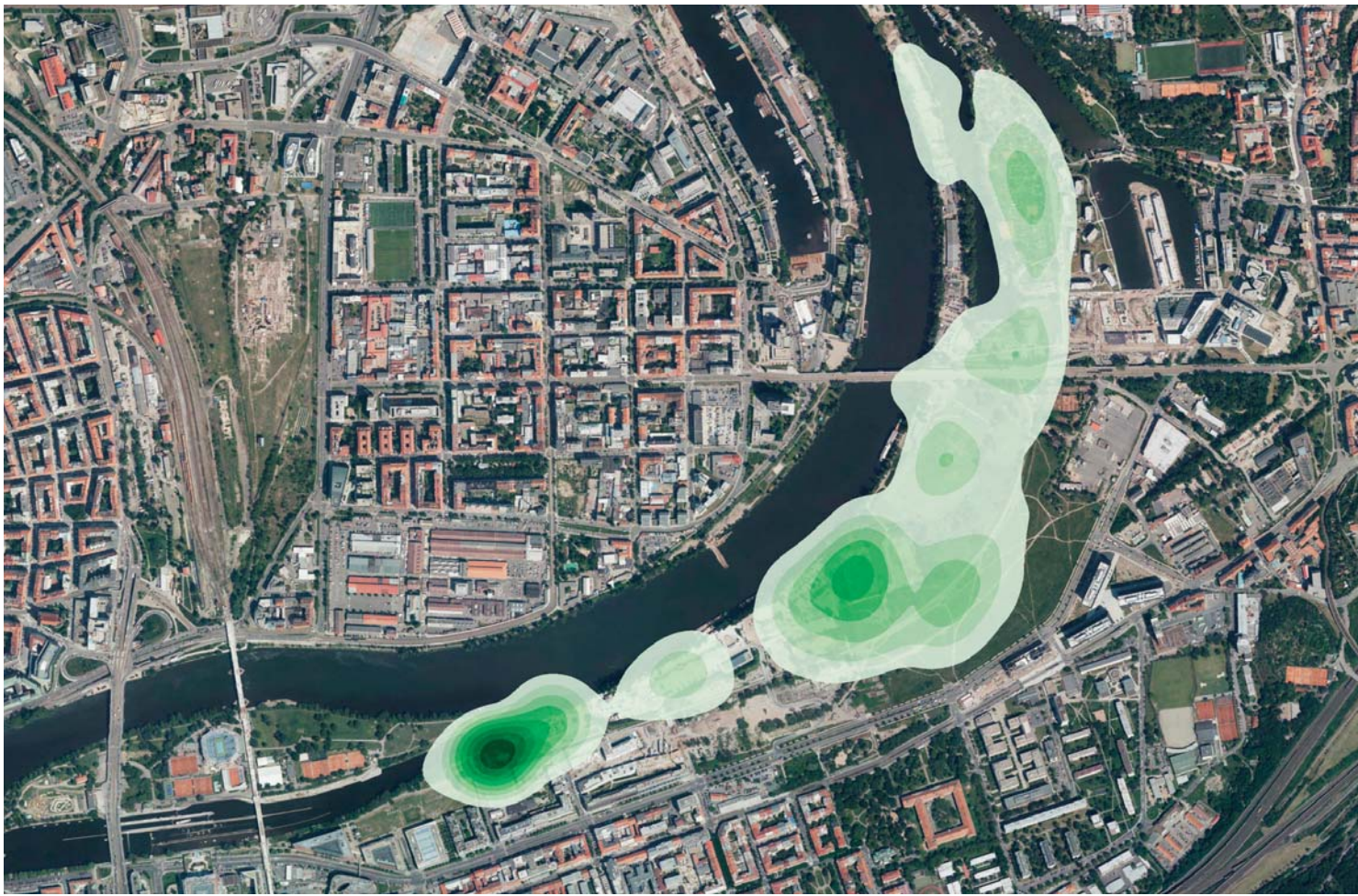


The table shows the results of the current evaluation of different features of the area (results of an electronic questionnaire where 491 respondents answered). The results are poor, especially concerning the **administration of the area** (including greenery), **access to the water** and the lacking or **insufficient connection** to the other bank of the Vltava. On the other hand, people value the **presence of the cycle path**, the current **sports** opportunities and, above all, **good transport accessibility**.

In addition to the primary features people see in the area, the questionnaire data also allow us to display a **quantitative representation** in the form of a heatmap. This shows the concentration of different suggestions in specific locations. The higher the number, the darker the color is on the map.

Locations perceived positively

On the value map, the area of Přístav 18600 shines the strongest. This reflects the fact it is a well-known, long-established venue that people appreciate for its **cultural** contributions, the seating, refreshments and informal setting. The area between the concrete plant and the golf course really stands out on the map. This is in some sense the hidden heart of Rohan Island and where the greatest potential for change can be found. People here appreciate the copious **greenery** and a certain form of **wildness**. This place is also associated with a perception of **freedom** and open space, something appreciated by a large number of respondents. The third significant focal point is the area of Libeň Island – this mostly gets a positive evaluation due to its **atmosphere**, traditional function and wide range of **activities for children and youth** as well as local residents (the U Budyho pub).

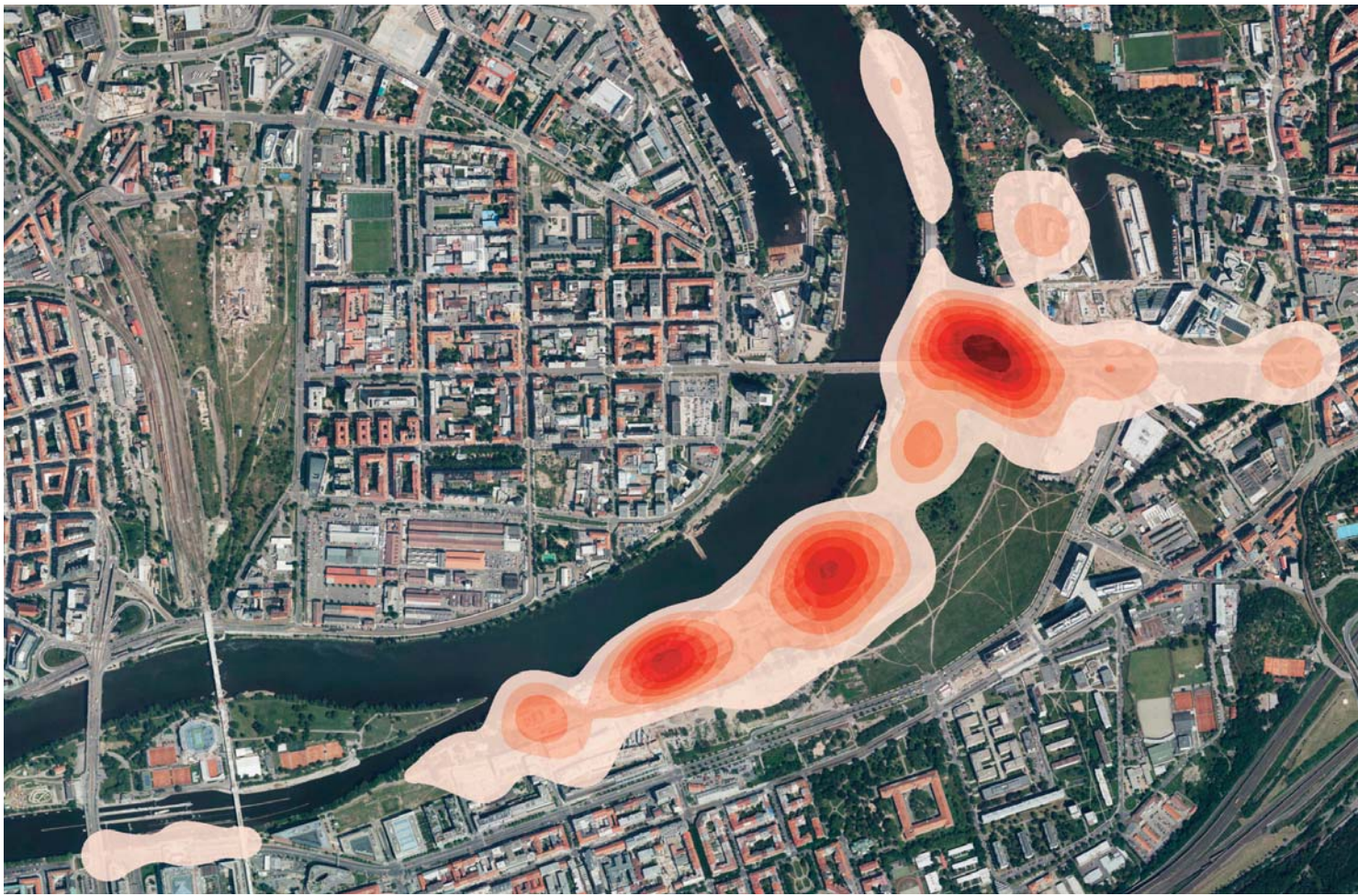


Locations perceived positively

Locations perceived negatively

The problem map most clearly reflects themes of **inadequate functionality** and missing or **poor maintenance**. The area north of the Libeň Bridge stands out most on the map. Here there is a mess of unwelcoming **used car dealerships**, inadequate traffic solutions (intersections with the cycle path, **freight traffic**), difficulties with maintenance (**the state of the Libeň Bridge**). The second area viewed poorly is the so-called wilderness or urban steppe. The biggest problems here are **overgrowth, impermeability, litter** and the presence of **homeless people**. The **concrete plant**, which is associated with **dust, noise** and freight traffic, arouses very negative emotions. However, the disagreement runs much deeper here – people simply don't like having such a facility in the city center, near residential housing or recreational areas.

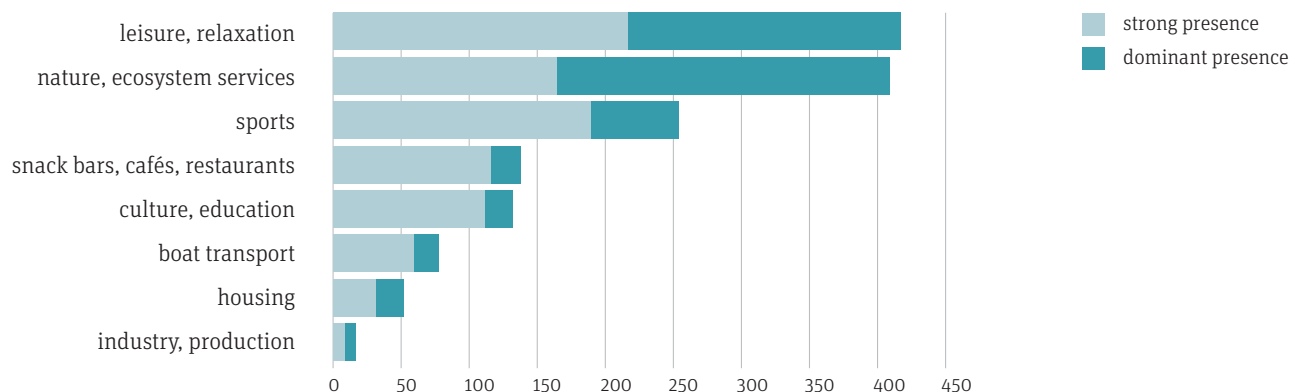
Future outlook



Locations perceived negatively

Future outlook

Future outlook – strong representation



According to respondents from the public, the area's **primary purpose** in the future should be **recreation**, while also significantly fulfilling **ecosystem needs**. Another highly popular use is for **sports**. In contrast, content such as culture, hospitality or boat transport achieved high numbers at both ends of the scale (i.e. strong pros and cons). These should therefore be present in the area, but in a balanced way. These functions should also be treated with caution, as there are concerns about possible congestion (e.g. the marginal criticisms of Přístav 18600).

Involvement of key players

Finding a vision for development of the territory

more: 03: Involvement of Key Players of the Rohan and Libeň Island

Dozens of individuals and entities are already active in the area and have a significant influence on its development. These players were invited to contribute to the Rohan and Libeň Concept through a series of activities such as **informal interviews (33 interviews were conducted) and an online questionnaire (23 participants)**. The output of these research activities is a **map of key players with 68 entries** (available here: www.mapotic.com/rohansky-ostrov-mapa-klicovch-hracu). This was followed by two thematic workshops held in an online environment during the spring of 2021. The output of these workshops is a set of **18 thematic areas with proposed objectives**.

² These activities were carried out before the subject preparing this report became involved (Atelier for Public Debate).



Majitelé pozemků či nemovitostí



Spolky, iniciativy, neziskové organizace



Samospráva / veřejná správa



Místní podniky, výroby, obchody



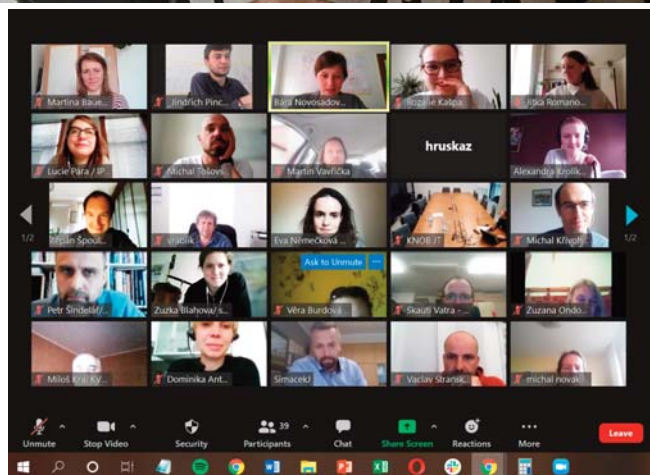
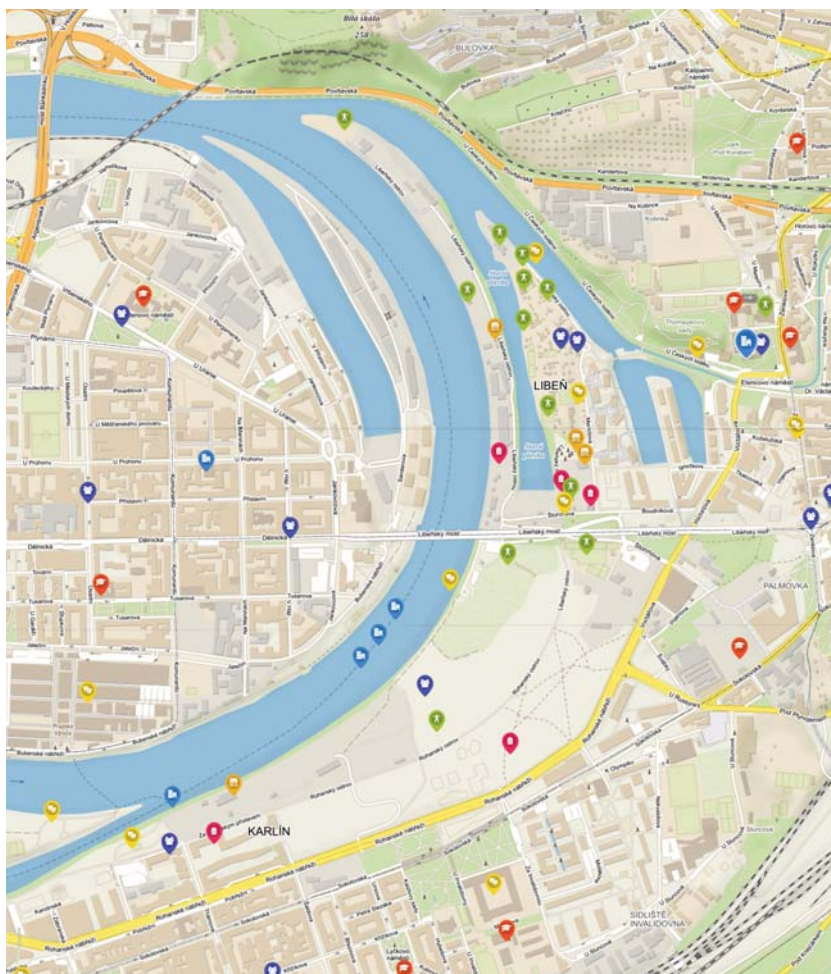
Kulturní aktéři / pohostinství / školy



Školy, školky, zařízení pro děti



Sport a volný čas

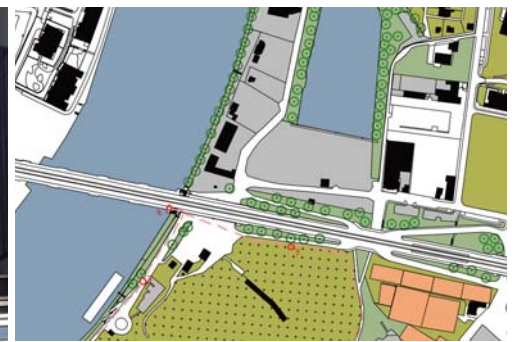


Involvement of Children

more: 05 Rohan Island through the eyes of children and students

Our research among children and youth has uncovered a number of interesting facts that should be taken into account. We managed to involve **32 children** (ages 6–13) and **115 students** (ages 14–17). There are a variety of popular activities for children under 13. **Most often, they look for places to relax, play sports, where trees grow and they can play with the water.** Children are attracted by adventurous expeditions to mysterious places and tree climbing. Three-quarters of the children surveyed go outdoors on foot and about the same number said they would like to swim in the river.

Surprisingly, most of the high school students whose schools are within walking distance were **not familiar with the area and do not visit it.** This age group is mostly looking for places where they can relax undisturbed (“just hanging out” with friends), have the opportunity to buy refreshments and to perform a variety of activities (**more sports, less culture**), but mostly **in their own, unorganized way.** They see the future Rohan and Libeň islands as an open and available space, green and shady, with access to the river, no roads, landfills, fences, barriers or industrial properties, with opportunities to sit, get refreshments, hang out and play sports.



Homeless people

more: 06 Rohan Island Territory and homeless people

In the area and its immediate surroundings there are large numbers of homeless people who stay in the locality for short and long periods. This is due to some extent to **the absence of more comprehensive governance** (and associated control), but also the **presence of relevant resources** in the area such as proximity to the **river**, good **accessibility** to the city center, relative quiet for sleeping, the possibility to build a fire, etc. This location largely attracts **homeless people** who, for various reasons, prefer sleeping outdoors over other options (shelters, hostels, etc.). The issue of homelessness in this location resonates strongly among the public. Fears and **unpleasant feelings** prevail over actual problems or bad experiences. Even in terms of police checks, there are very few conflicts in the area, with police visiting mostly as part of their patrols and inspections. People dislike the **litter** in the area, which they associate with the homeless.





Zpracoval:

Ateliér pro veřejnou debatu

07/2021

www.iprpraha.cz/rohansky-ostrov

www.ateliervd.cz

01

THE TERRITORY OF THE ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

In the eyes of the public
and key actors



01

OBSAH

Summary

| Rohan and Libeň Island Concept / Summary of public involvement

— Area description

01 / Celé území Rohanského a Libeňského ostrova

/ In the eyes of the public and key actors

- Introduction and method
 - Territory features
 - Hodnocení stávající úrovně území
 - Things you like
 - Things you don't like
 - Future outlook
-

02 / Locations of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

— User's Perspective

03 / Involvement of Key Players of the Rohan and Libeň Island

04 / Users of Rohan and Libeň islands / Field interviews

05 / The Present and Future of Rohan and Libeň islands / Through the eyes of children and students

— Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Introduction and method

This section is a synthesis – **a description of the entire area** of the Rohan and Libeň islands. It primarily covers topics affecting the territory as a whole, but also topics unrelated to any particular place. (Locally specific suggestions are discussed in detail in Chapter 02: Locations of the Rohan and Libeň Island). It provides information on the personality, character, main features and specificities of the island. It reviews the current positive and negative aspects, presents a number of comparisons, personal evaluations and interesting observations from its users. It also addresses the desired future form and functions the public believes should be represented here.

Territory features

The natural questions to ask in the early phases of the research were questions relating to the character and key features of the area. Model questions: “What is Rohan Island to you? What are the main features of the area? What things are typical there?”. Analyzing responses to the questionnaire sent to key actors in the territory gave us the initial insight presented here. It is important to note these are the perceptions of entities operating in the territory. The four main features of the area as a whole from the perspective of the stakeholders involved are:

- **The vastness of the area**, a fact which is mirrored in both the description of the size of the whole area (such large areas are rare in Prague) and the description of its potential for development. Other descriptive words: size, vastness, openness,
 - no architectural development.
 - **Greenery** - the presence of vegetation is characteristic of the area. This carries aspects of on the one hand quantity (there is a lot of greenery) as well as a certain specific quality, which is expressed in phrases such as “a chunk of nature in the city”,
 - the “natural character” of the location, “Urban steppe” or “urban wilderness”.
- The **link to water**, proximity to the Vltava River - a feature of the area that is perceived very strongly, and which has two sides: a) its unquestionable value enriching the whole area, b) the presence of water is also a limiting factor and implies
- the perception of flood risk. At the same time, a lack of access to the river is one of the main problems.
- The perception of it as a **location in the city center** including good transport accessibility (metro, tram) is another clearly stated characteristic.



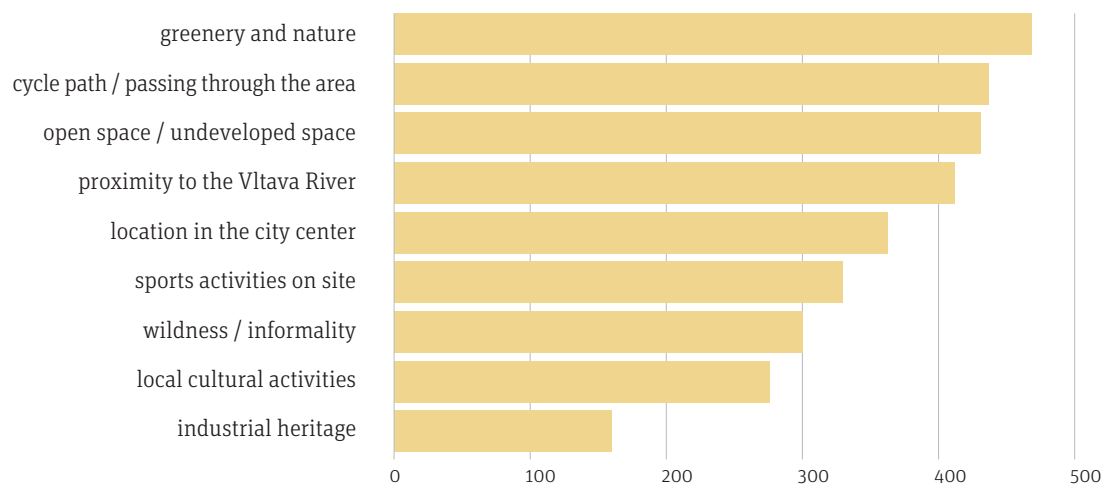
In addition to the strong overarching themes, there are a number of less frequent yet thought-provoking observations in the evaluation.

- **Attractiveness** – it is a place that entices and attracts. Housing and leisure. People with money and those without.
- **Grassroots energy** – what works here was created from below – by the efforts of local actors, rather than as a result of centralized planning.
- **Historical memory** and proximity to cultural values – the place already has a strong identity, with much to build on.
- **Landscape** – large-scale landscape features are visible here (the effects of water, interactions between landscape and city, interactions between water and city terrain).

These topics and hypotheses were subsequently transferred into an electronic questionnaire and tested to see how they were viewed in the eyes of the general public. The strength of the perceived values can be read from the following graph, which shows a ranking of the different features. They were rated as “very important and relevant”. The first rungs are represented by features where there is general agreement. It is worth noting here, though it is not uncommon, that the **“green space and nature” overwhelms other significant features of the area**. The proximity of the river may also be overridden to some extent by its current poor accessibility. The area is largely defined by its primary function – a pass-through area / a cycle path.

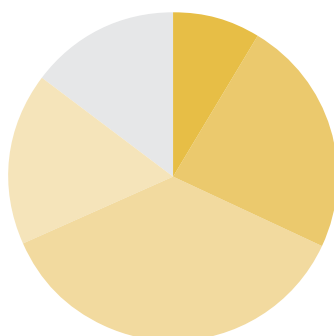
The bottom two rungs (**wildness/informality** and **industrial heritage**), on the other hand, display characteristics where the evaluation is **inconsistent** – it is more balanced on both sides of the spectrum and has a strong center (not visible in the graph). This can be illustrated using the example of industrial heritage. For a large number of people this is a strong element of the territory, while for many others this is “completely unimportant”. This inconsistency may in a way be confirmed by the strong presence of “neutral” evaluations. It may also be related to and indicate the degree of preference – strong element = should be retained, unimportant = should be abandoned.

Main characteristics of the area [electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]



characteristics of the area – industrial heritage

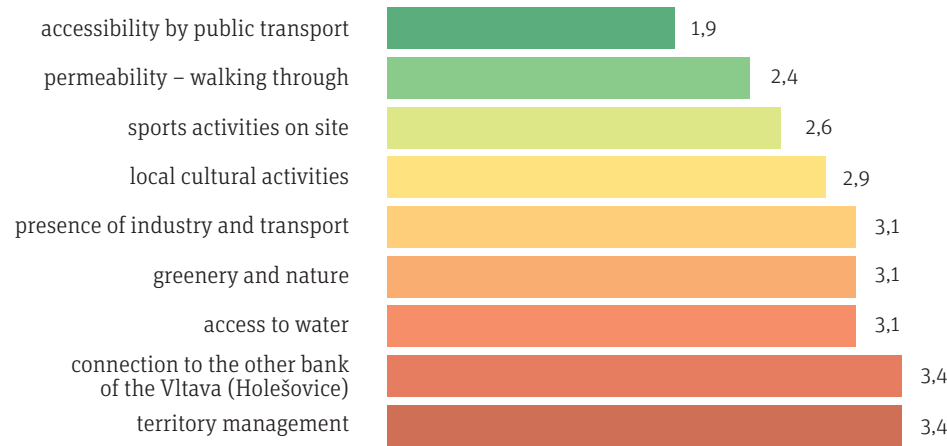
very important	43
important	114
neutral	178
unimportant	83
completely unimportant	71



The next question (in the el. questionnaire) was aimed at **assessing the current popularity of several pre-selected functions** and features of the area in the eyes of the respondents. Respondents could mark them with a grade like in school (1=perfect, 5=failing). These values were then averaged to produce the grades shown in the table below. It is worth noting the **negative evaluations of the area's otherwise strong points (greenery and nature, access to water)**. The low evaluation of the area's governance is also significant. Culture and sports received the highest number of average marks, indicating a high potential for improvement. The **accessibility of the area by public transport** is almost seamless.

Territory evaluation

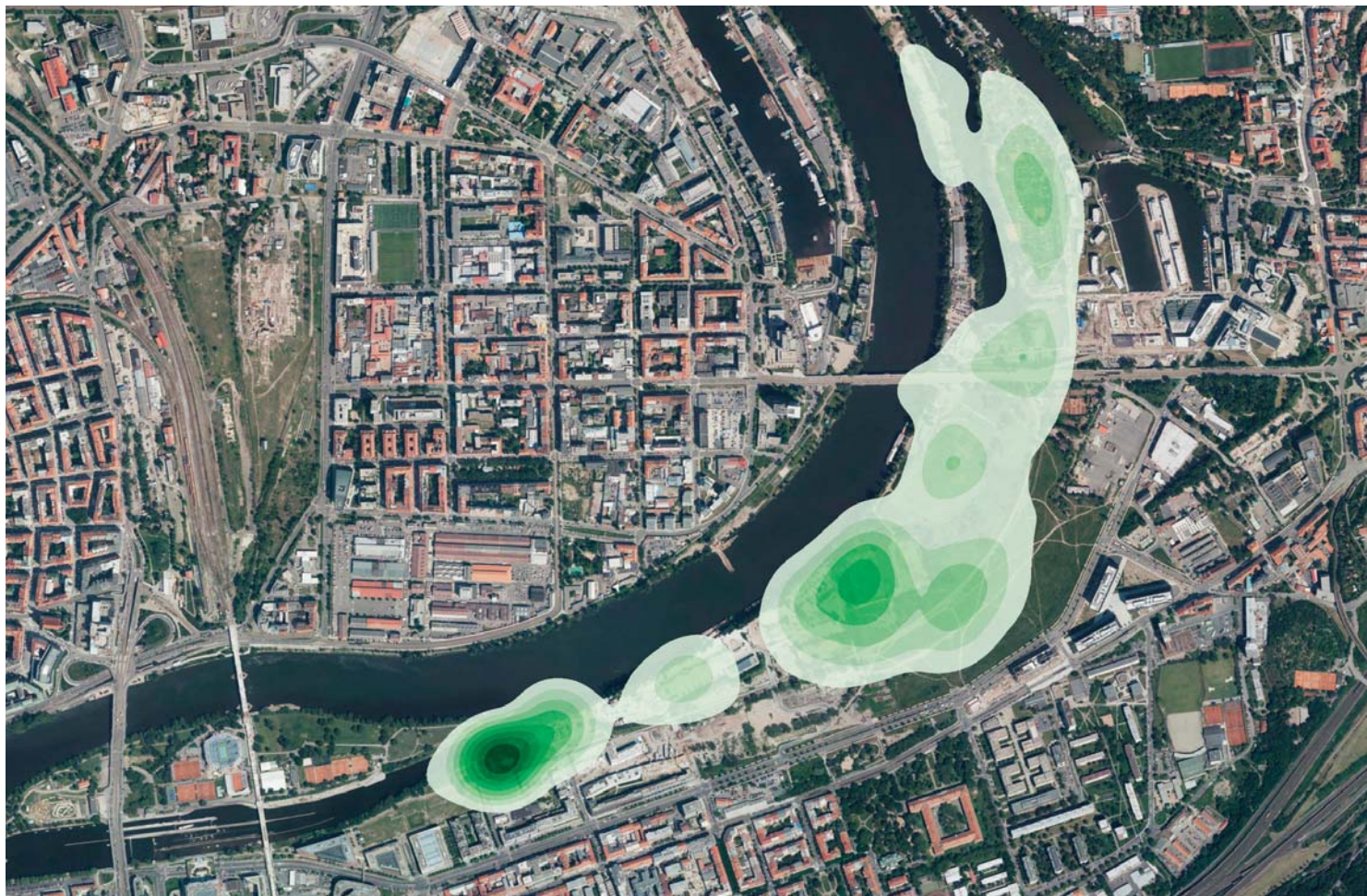
[electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]





Things you like

Do hodnocení pozitivních aspektů celého území se propisují významné rysy území jako blízkost k vodě, vysoké zastoupení zeleně či přítomnost cyklostezky. Míru opakování či významu určitých pozitivně laděných komentářů ukazuje heatmapa. Ta je vytvořena na základě dat z elektronického dotazníku ze dvou kategorií “Co v území máte rádi” a “Kde vnímáte potenciál pro změnu či rozvoj”. Sytější zelené oblasti ukazují nejvyšší koncentraci podnětů. Čím je oblast světlejší, tím je koncentrace nižší.



místa vnímaná pozitivně

Přístav 186 00

The most frequent positive evaluations were addressed towards the company Přístav 18600, with emphasis on the opportunities for **gatherings, refreshments, culture and sports activities**. A common and oft-repeated evaluation is the **informality** and openness of the space. To a lesser extent, the creation of a space as the result of a citizens' initiative. The area also contains a lot of forward-looking comments (potential). These mainly relate to **the new connection to Holešovice** and the general cultivation of the area near the ferry station, including the addition of other functions (a playground, workout area, mooring for private boats or small boats for rent).

“It’s an important cultural institution whose value lies in its informality.”

Urban savannah

The area between the concrete plant and the golf course is often referred to by names such as urban savannah, concrete wilderness or urban steppe. People praise the presence of **wild** and **informal nature**, the **unique character of the vegetation** (steppe) and the presence of relatively **rare fauna and flora**. On the other hand, the area resonates on the map because a large number of people see it as **a place with a potential for change** - transformation into a nature park with new facilities, cleaned-up and made accessible, and the displacement of the homeless people. It is clear these two positions are very much at odds with each other and it will not be easy to balance, although on the other hand these are crucial issues to maintaining the character of the place.

| *“The wilderness... there should be a piece of it left... the ability to walk through the bushes in the middle of the city... a piece of nature for adults, children, animals.”*

| *“Make a park plaza, café, bar, summer cinema – an absolutely unused space!!!”*

Gardening colony

The evaluation of the garden colony (as a city feature) was primarily positive. Locally, emphasis was placed on the **long tradition** (the oldest colony in Prague), the unique atmosphere (“lost in time”) and a whole number of **leisure functions**, all with a common majority focus on **youth and children**. The evaluation of **informality** as one of the key values of the territory was also expressed strongly here. The potential for change lies primarily in a greater openness towards the general public.

| *“Lost in time and a place between places.”*

Golf and open space

The golf course area was also evaluated ambivalently, but with a slight preponderance of positive ratings. This is mainly due to the **presence of cultivated greenery, including mature trees**. It is one of the few places in the vicinity that is looked after. The opportunity **to play golf** itself also has value and motivates a number of people to go to the area. The course, thanks to its vastness and **visual openness, also offers views** of the city, the river and sunsets, something which has been noted by a surprisingly high number of reviews (not only by golfers). The negative evaluations were mainly directed at it being closed to the general public.

| *“You like to watch golfers hitting their shots.”*

Cyklotezka

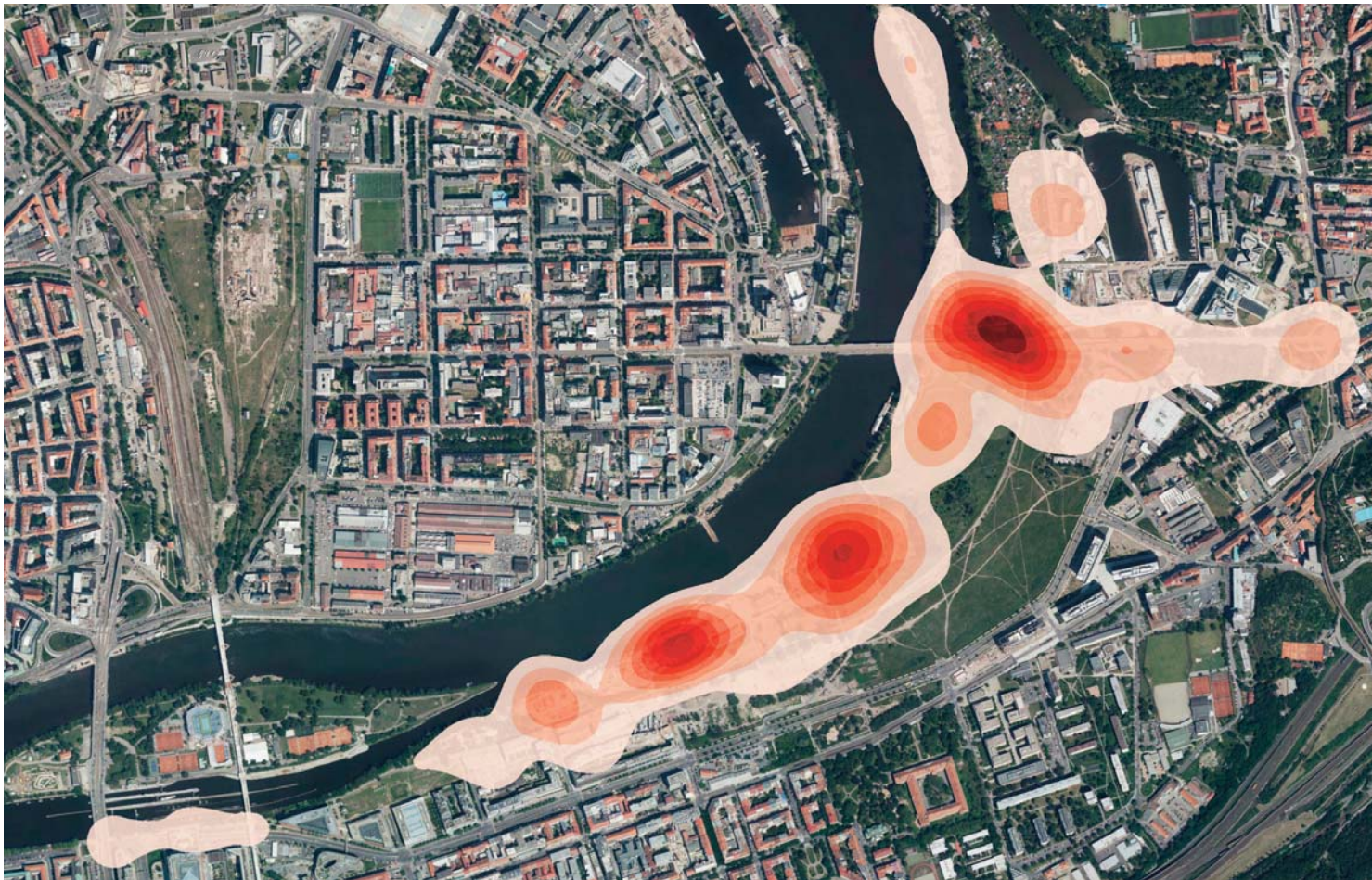
Území funguje jako skvělá spojnice, je to nejkratší a pěkná cesta bez aut. Obyvatelé tudy přejíždí na kole mezi domovem, svými pracovišti a dalšími místy, užívají si lokalitu a oceňují výbornou ne-městskou atmosféru, vhodné stezky a řeku. Vnímají to jako stezku s přívětivým okolím, navíc navázanou na Karlín a další městské části a místa podél Vltavy. Někteří zmiňují dobrou atmosféru mezi dalšími cyklisty a sportujícími lidmi. Dobrým zázemím pro cyklisty je občerstvení Koletu, kde se mohou setkat s dalšími cyklisty a kamarády.

- | *"My living space.
I can come in here without a mask.
The emptiness calms me."*
- | *"Gentrification has not
fully erupted here.
That has value to me."*
- | *"Runners and people
on bikes, sports."*
- | *"A big space, valuable territory,
I'm close by. I'll probably keep
coming here."*
- | *"It has its own charm.
There's a piece
of history here"*
- | *"Nature, freedom,
undeveloped."*
- | *"Sunshine and beautiful
mature trees."*
- | *"A relaxing place
for people's outings."*
- | *"Greenery – that's good
everywhere."*
- | *"A place to fish."*
- | *"When you go down from the bridge you're no longer
in Prague, when you climb back up on the bridge
you're in Prague."*
- | *"A brownfield, a properly
forgotten area."*
- | *"Release.
An empty big space."*
- | *"A big meadow, let the dog go to
the river and chase the hares."*
- | *"Natural spaces as a rarity, the plains fascinate
me; nature in the city, it's undeveloped.
Prague is rich in parks, it's properly balanced,
I appreciate it very much."*
- | *"I take it as a shortcut to Žižkov. It's
never my destination. I also see it as a
pathway and its surroundings more than
anything else."*
- | *"Peace.
That's my motivation
for coming here."*
- | *"The pheasants are great.
I love nature."*
- | *"A hipster waterfront –
unwashed, more natural."*
- | *"An open space."*



Things you don't like

When evaluating the problematic aspects of the whole area, recurring themes such as a lack of maintenance or rather a complete absence of administration (see the evaluation above) are reflected in a number of more or less specific or partial problems. Their strength in the territory is reflected in the topical heatmap showing the concentration of these “negative” comments resulting from the electronic questionnaire. The heatmap is drawn from suggestions in the categories: “What you don't like in the territory” and “Where you feel a reduced sense of security or discomfort”.



místa vnímaná negativně

The area around the Libeň Bridge system

A number of problems can be encountered here, ranging from the poorly designed intersection of the cycle path and Štorchova Street, the concentration of **undesirable functions (car dealerships)**, the **poor condition of the bridge** and its bad connections to the surrounding area. The increased presence of houseless people is also noted here.

Urban savannah

This poetic designation can be used to encompass the area between the golf course and the concrete plant. The most frequent comments are directed towards the high **concentration of homeless people** (garbage, settlements and tents, fear of danger, feelings of visual discomfort, etc.). There is a strong criticism of **litter in the area** and **poor care** for the greenery, dangerous surfaces (concrete) and difficulties traversing the area (overgrown, wild).

The concrete plant

The presence of the concrete plant in the area resonates strongly in the comments. Respondents are most concerned that it **creates a barrier** in the area (it is impossible to walk through to the river or between it and the river), it encumbers the area **with dust and noise**, and it brings in **freight traffic** that also crosses the cycle path. In general, there is resistance to such an industrial function in the city.

Přístav 18600 and boarding the ferry

A significant trace on the map is left by the area where the ferry station and the business Přístav 18600 are located. Here the suggestions are mixed and reflect a number of generally unrelated comments. At the top of the list is the negative evaluation of missing connections (the upcoming footbridge), **the boarding access to the ferry station**, haphazard car parking and the poor condition of the cycle path. There was also a problematic evaluation of **Přístav 18600** – respondents were **bothered by the noise**, high **concentration of people**, the perceived messiness of the place and its **“punk” character**.

| *“The homeless people everywhere don’t do the place any good.”*

| *“It’s clearly not okay for people to look out their windows at a concrete plant.”*

| *“Loud music, noise and drunkards under people’s windows... no, thank you.”*

| *“Přístav 18600 could be made nicer looking and, although it’s already a place of culture, more cultured.”*

| *“The area doesn’t feel safe enough to be able to enjoy it fully.”*

| *“There are no people around.”*

Other general topics

This is where we can list recurring themes relating to the territory as a whole, albeit often somewhat distantly. The number one such topic for respondents is **construction in the area** – whether ongoing or planned. This topic is important across the broader area (Karlín, Libeň), but here it mainly concerns the construction around the A2 cycle path and the related loss of open space people are used to. The second recurring theme, albeit significantly less so, is a certain resistance to the **ongoing gentrification of Karlín**. This is reflected in the increase in new construction for the wealthier classes, the arrival of new office buildings, the rise in prices and disappearance of local businesses and shops. Other topics are described below in individual locations.

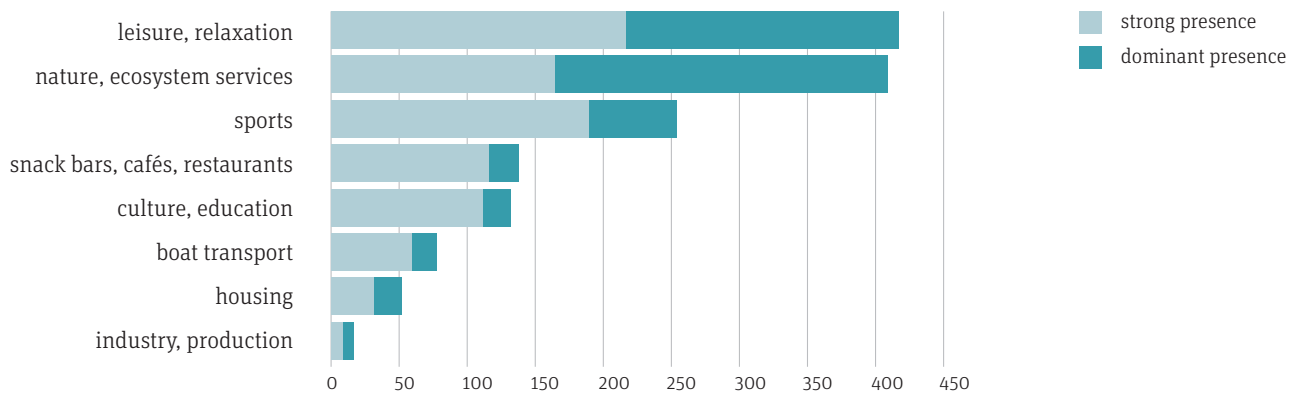


Future outlook

We asked respondents “What activities and functions do you think should take place in the area in the future?” We sorted the answers to this question into three categories. The first one shows the ratio of preferences for the strongly represented functions, the second one shows the ratio for functions that should be represented marginally or not at all.

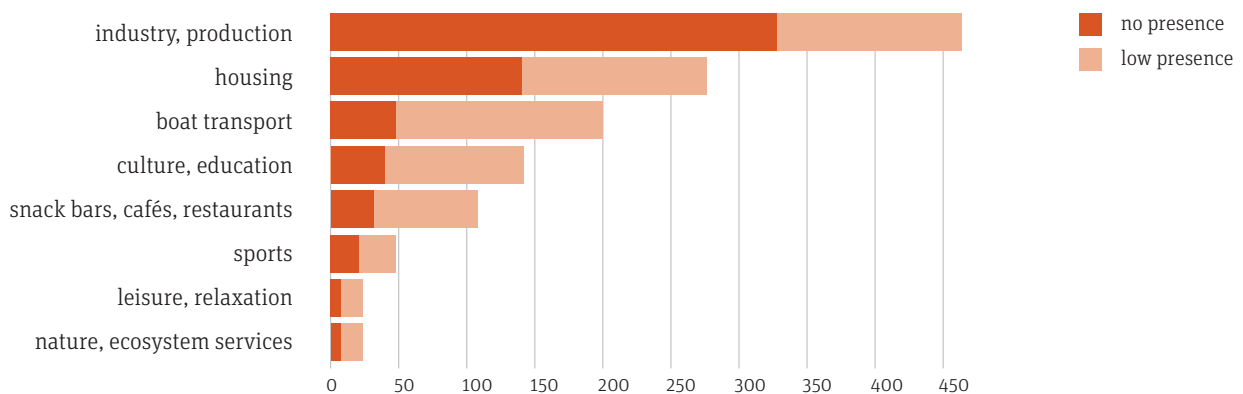
Future outlook – strong representation

[electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]



Future outlook – low representation

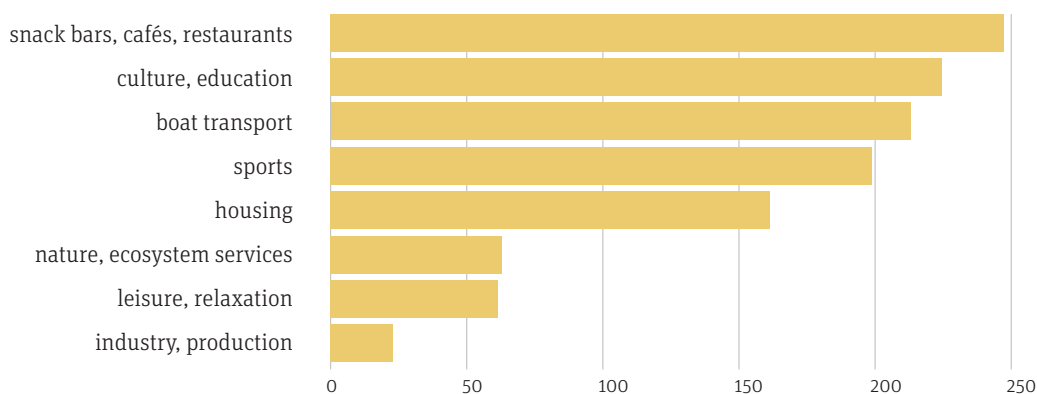
[electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]



The third chart shows the representation of functions that respondents believe should be represented in the area, but the level of representation should be moderate and balanced. Caution should therefore be exercised with respect to the functions at the top of this chart, because they bring along some **concerns about overloading the area** with the function or activity in question.

Future outlook – balanced representation

[electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses]



In addition to the questionnaire data, we also present a selection of responses and individual suggestions from the field interviews.

- | *A park equipped for relaxation. Conceptually as a whole, yes, but different places should have different solutions.*
- | *Nature, mature trees, a meadow (“Something like the restored meanders of Rokytka”).*
- | *Keep things as they are now, just make it better.*
- | *Public toilets (not everyone can go behind a tree).*
- | *Benches, seating.*
- | *More refreshment options.*
- | *Wilderness, nothing overwrought.*
- | *A balance between nature and development. Development is OK. The flood provided an opportunity for a new neighborhood to grow.*
- | *Human-centric, no solutions “cooked up in the office”.*
- | *There should be works of art in the space, but quality, positive, photogenic art, not just art at any price.*
- | *Suppress construction, let the green belt live, don’t scrub it out clean; something like Rokytka.*
- | *Facilities for children (the young ones are growing up).*
- | *A quiet restaurant.*
- | *A better maintained park and more greenery.*
- | *A multifunctional space, half punk, not too regulated. A space suitable for larger events like the Signal festival, city concerts.*
- | *It shouldn’t cost a lot of money, low budget, cost-effective. No wasted billions.*

Zpracoval:

Ateliér pro veřejnou debatu

07/2021

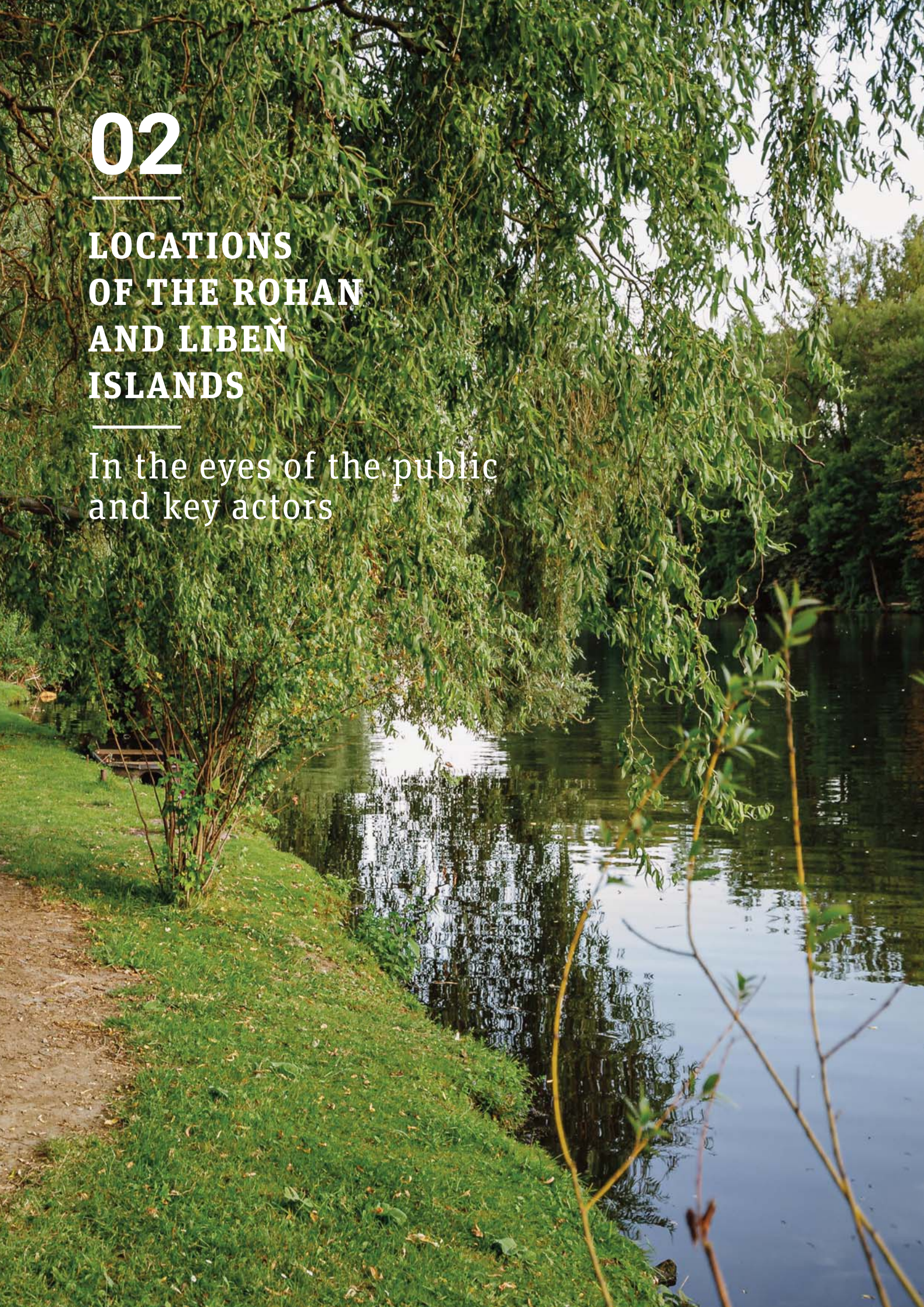
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02

LOCATIONS OF THE ROHAN AND LIBEN ISLANDS

In the eyes of the public
and key actors



02

OBSAH

Summary

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02 / Locations of the Rohan and Libeň islands

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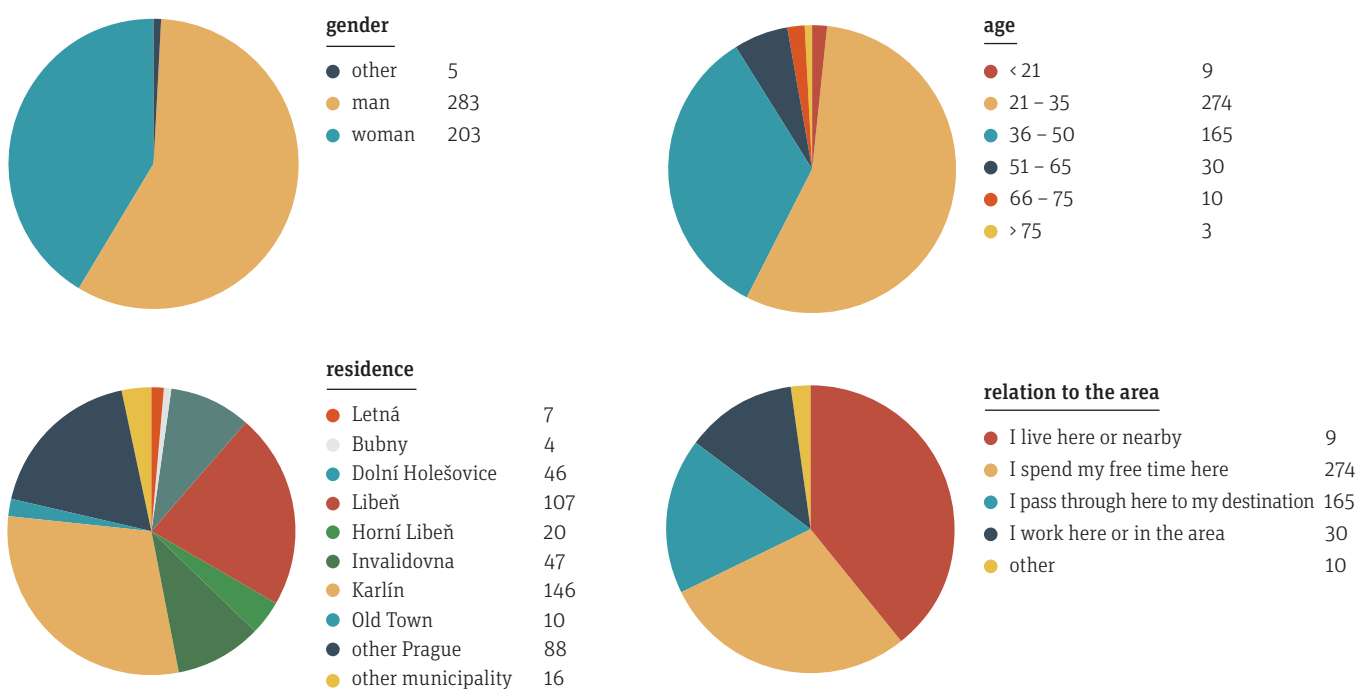
Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Introduction and method

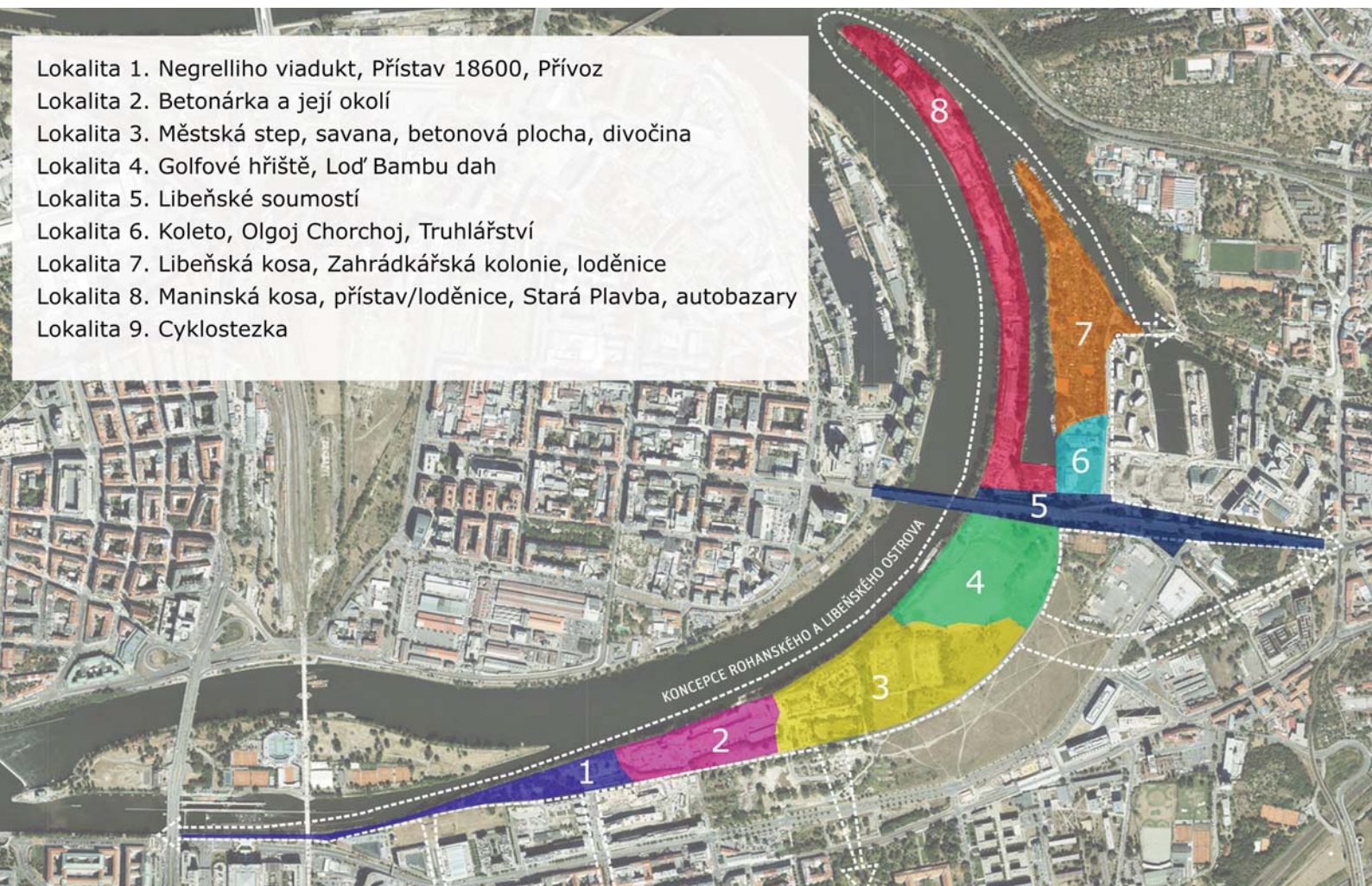


This chapter is an analysis of the individual localities of Rohan and Libeň islands that we have deliberately divided the whole area into when processing the participation data. The aim of this step was a detailed examination of each of the sites, often starkly different in their form, character and function, and often even with physical boundaries between them (for example: an unmaintained area adjacent to a golf course, the concrete plant wall, the fenced gardens, the river). The results are a summary of the data from the general public. Concerning these localities, we were interested to hear about what people valued, saw as problems or potential for the future. The data collection was primarily through an online survey (conducted between April and June 2021, with 491 respondents). Other sources, such as consultations in the information container, in-depth interviews with users in the area and dedicated workshops with students from schools in the vicinity, also provided context for our interpretation and overall understanding of the topic. (For topics relevant to the area as a whole, see Section 01: The Territory of the Rohan and Libeň islands).



More than half of the survey respondents are from Karlín and Libeň. Three quarters live in the close vicinity of the area, the rest are from Prague. The majority of respondents are under 35 years old. There is a noticeable lack of users from older age-groups. This may also be a result of the chosen (electronic) form of the questionnaire. And the general worse situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost all of the responses from people over the age of 66 were from container participants, which once more shows the meaningfulness of this activity.

Suggestions map



At this link (www.iprpaha.cz/rohansky-ostrov) there is an online map which provides an overview of all the suggestions gathered through the online questionnaire. Respondents were able to enter up to 5 suggestions for each of the four pre-established categories. In total, the respondent was able to fill in as many as 20 entries with locations. An explanatory comment was required for each entry.

In the online map, you can view the details and read the comments for each entry. The points are colored according to the category in which they were entered by respondents.

What places are valuable to you? Where do you like it and why?

● (green)

What places are problematic for you? Where do you not like and why?

● (red)

Where do you feel less secure, fearful or uncomfortable?

● (black)

Where do you see potential for change or development?

● (orange)

The base map can be switched to satellite in the upper left corner and zoomed in at the bottom corner. In the top bar it is then possible to filter the content in the map either by visible respondent attributes, by response categories or directly by full-text searches (make sure to use the correct inflection).

Location 1

Negrelli Viaduct, Přístav 18600, Ferry



Where you like it

The positive evaluation of the area between the Negrelli viaduct and the Karlín ferry stop is very strong. People speak positively about the business Přístav 18600, which has been operating at the site since 2014. Respondents praise the combined functions of refreshments with seating, a cultural program, leisure time in nature, the original children's playground, sports facilities (beach volleyball) and barbecue. As far as physical attributes are concerned, people most often mention the proximity of water and mature trees, the connection to the ferry, but also the nice view of Štvanice or the Negrelli Viaduct. A recurring value of the space is its perceived openness to all groups of visitors and its informal to wild (punk) character.

The second most strongly represented value in the area is the HolKa ferry. People appreciate both the connection with Holešovice and Štvanice as well as its unconventional and attractive form.

“The atmosphere by the water and the seating are good. The seating was dirty, but we liked it, as well as the barbecue spots.”

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Where you don't like it

The theme that resonated the strongest was **lack of access to the river**. The problem is viewed from two perspectives – the poor design and visual appearance of the area between the concrete plant and Přístav 18600, which serves as access to the ferry station. There's litter, obstructions in the area, homeless people. None of the lighting works here and cars have no business parking here in the respondents' view. The second dimension of limited access to the water relates to the path that runs alongside the riverbank. It is quite difficult to navigate and too adventurous for many visitors. "The path is there, but it's overgrown – with broken glass bottles, no trash cans." But the main problem is that you can't walk pass through the concrete plant, so you have to go around it.

**"Somewhere there's sand, some grass, very well-trodden.
The unmarked stairs – rocky, broken, weren't very visible – could have
been better marked."**

(student, gymnázium PORG)

However, Přístav 18600 was also negatively evaluated. Respondents are bothered by the fact that it is sometimes a bit too busy, that the space has a "chaotic design" or is functionally undersized (toilets, trash cans). "Přístav 18600 could be made nicer looking and, although it's already a place of culture, more cultured." Operation after 10 pm is problematic for some residents from houses in the area. "The whole concept feels more like a punk festival than a beer garden in a modern urban neighborhood."

A recurring theme is the cycle path and its inadequate maintenance – especially the clay surfaces, which allow large puddles to form, making the path impossible to navigate "cleanly" in bad weather. Then there's the lack of lighting and "fast and reckless cyclists". Specifically, problematic locations include: the underpass at Hlávka Bridge, the passage around the terraces at the Hilton Hotel and the bend and intersection in the road under the Negrelli Viaduct. A sense of insecurity or discomfort was also reported by respondents due to the increased number of drunk people in the evenings. Separately, there are concerns about homeless people in the area of the ferry platform and under Hlávka Bridge.



Návrhy a nápady

- people are generally looking forward to the Holka footbridge.
- access to the shore, barrier-free access to the water or ferry
- maintain public boat transport (ferry, water tram, boats, etc.)
- workout playground, sports complex,
- moorings for private boats

Location 2

The cement plant and its surroundings



Where you like it

The riverbank and the path along the river, which offers “adventurous journeys beside the water and a walk where no one goes”, are viewed positively. People also mentioned parked barges, which can be visually appealing in the area.

“A narrow path by the river. If we could, we’d enjoy walking further along the river.”
(student, PORG grammar school)

A quite oft-repeated evaluation was that the concrete plant is a necessary evil, based on the belief that without the concrete plant, the ongoing and planned construction would be a significantly worse burden for the whole of Karlín. The concrete plant is also however seen as one of the few sources of systematic care and maintenance in the area between Přístav 18600 and the golf course.



Where you don't like it

Here, the negative evaluation of the premises of the concrete plant is unsurprising, primarily due to noise, dust and high traffic also for the wider area. There have been loud complaints that the concrete plant complicates access to the river and currently even completely prevents movement along the bank. People are convinced this function is unsuitable for the area, that “the concrete plant does not belong in the city center”, and that it is also an aesthetically unappealing building. This is particularly inconsistent with the housing function. “It’s clearly not okay for people to look out their windows at a concrete plant.” The downside is that the concrete plant blocks use of the space and prevents it from being a public space.

“The place had a touch of industrialization, but not enough fresh air for our taste and too busy. On our walk we had a view of the concrete plant and construction site. I don’t feel good about the concrete plant.”

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Demolish it, plant grass, reforest
- Preserve it as an industrial monument
- Restrict operation on weekdays after 6 pm



Location 3

Urban steppe, savannah, concrete surface, wilderness



Where you like it

There is an ambivalent evaluation of how unmaintained this locality is. The undeniable neglect of the place signifies its wild character, the unfettered presence of a “wilderness in the city”. People particularly appreciate the opportunity to encounter interesting fauna (pheasants, hares) and flora (they refer to it as a steppe, forest park or savannah), collect various fruits (e.g. rosehips or elderberries), walk dogs without restrictions or go fishing. The evaluation of the area as an open space that allows wide-reaching views of the city, the river, and the sky resonates strongly. “I walk here regularly and feel like I have a bit of space in the city. There aren’t many places like this in Prague anymore.” People also rate the proximity to the water and the riverbank positively here. An unexpected benefit of this location is that it is possible to reach the shore here with a baby carriage (this is otherwise quite complicated in the whole surrounding area). A number of people highlighted the unobtrusive nature of the bike park, which is appreciated for its informal and nature-friendly character and its convenient location in the city center. It is a nice place to spend time with children and for youth.



Where you don't like it

The flip side of neglect manifests itself as **litter, overgrowth, impermeability, feelings of danger**, etc. The unmaintained area sometimes resembles an overgrown landfill more than an urban wilderness. People frequently mention homeless people in the area (the tent city or colony), litter, fear of loose dogs or discarded syringes. A relatively common opinion is reflected in this quote "I have never got in any conflicts with them, I understand they need to live somewhere, but it doesn't increase the attractiveness of the space." **The presence of homeless people** contrasts with the proximity of the golf course and the busy cycle path and exposes the contradictions between the worlds of the rich and the poor.

Respondents are also bothered by the poor accessibility of the water's edge (the steep bank) and the dangerous pieces of concrete and holes in the area of the former warehouses and sports complex.

"The journey to the water was unpleasant. We only met a few people. We saw homeless people, tents and bonfires, as well as rabbits, pheasants and a dead bird. Pants. The feelings were gloomy and sometimes we even felt afraid. The strange sound of a trumpet."

(3rd year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Something like the deregulated Rokytka in Hrdlořezy.
- In the future I would like to keep or even expand the bike park.
- More informal playgrounds for children, like you can see in Berlin, for example.
- Multifunctional playgrounds, cafés / snack bars, a roller skating path.
- A stall, restaurant with refreshments.
- Clean up the mess that the homeless make.
- Leave it. I like it the way it is.
- Outdoor natural area for cultural events, concerts.
- Outdoor workout playground.
- Outdoor barbecue options.
- Children's playground.
- Don't run another bridge across when the Libeň Bridge is right next door.
- Remove the concrete surfaces and replace with greenery.
- Eliminate the homeless colony.

"We would like to have a recreation area with lots of greenery and flowers, a sports field, a playground, a pier by the river and the option to rent boats."

(Riško, Akingemi, U Libeňského zámku grammar school, 3rd year students)

Location 4

Golf course, Bam bu dah boat



Where you like it

The golf course plays the primary role in this locality (the driving range to be exact). The well-maintained greenery, including mature trees and the opportunity for play, are especially appreciated. “I like going to the driving range. Because it’s here in the center, I can train during the day without having to drive out by car – it’s close to public transport.” The visual qualities of the area are clear from many evaluations, including the attractive sunsets, the ability to watch the players or the vibrant traffic in the area. The green area in the eastern part of the course serves this purpose well. “I like to ride my bike around the golf course, it’s fun to watch the golfers tee off.”

The Bam bu dah boat is relatively new in the area, so it hasn’t resonated among people very much yet. It is mentioned as a cultural center and a place blasting overly loud music. The riverbanks here are also a popular fishing ground.



Where you don't like it

The negative evaluation of the golf course is based on two primary aspects. First of all, it is an inaccessible, non-public area that does not serve **the public, only a small segment of society**. The second aspect is the sense of danger resulting from the location of the course nearby the trail. "I'm afraid of getting hit by a golf ball. These golfers are dangerous." The course is completely parched in the summer. The poor condition of the car park and access road to the golf course are also recurring themes.

"It's just golf, nothing grows there. A clean grassy area – so boring"
(student, PORG grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Conserve the Rohan Island Driving Range!! (frequent)
- I'd get rid of the golf tee and replace it with a publicly accessible green space.
- Building another embankment would not be a bad idea at all (next to the Bam bu dah boat).
- I'd like to see facilities for a public swimming pool.

Location 5

Libeň Bridge system



Where you like it

This area is clearly dominated by the Libeň Bridge, not only because of its function – i.e. the connection to Holešovice and public transport, but also because of its cultural significance. Respondents often have an emotional relationship towards the bridge. “I love Libeň Bridge and I am glad it will be repaired.” Libeň Bridge provides interesting views of the river, the Rohan and Libeň islands territory, but it’s also a landmark in its own right. It is “unique, interesting, novel and complements its surroundings”.



Where you don't like it

The main problem with the bridge is its dismal condition associated with its long-delayed renovation. Leaving that aside, the problem is primarily the feelings it creates in its immediate environment. The bridge acts as a barrier and even the pathways leading through it often end up nowhere. The problematic places are: the barrier connection to the Holešovice riverbank, the lack of lighting in the A2 cycle path tunnel, the ever-present puddles and the dangerous intersection with Štorchová Street. Respondents negatively evaluated the surroundings of the arch above the former branch of the river and the park between Kaufland and the bridge. Both of these places are highly neglected, homeless people live here and others are afraid to walk through them (partly because these spaces don't offer an "escape option"). A telling comment on the immediate surroundings of the bridge was given in English "The area doesn't feel safe enough to be able to enjoy it fully."



Návrhy a nápady

- Repair the bridge
- The renovation should not restrict north-to-south permeability.
- Restoration of park by Kaufland would refresh the area.
- Build pseudo-industrial looking restaurants/café's etc. (by the bridge).
- Turn the collection yard into a kind of campus where cultural events could be held.



Location 6

Koleto, Olgoj Chorchoj, carpenter's shop



Where you like it

The positive evaluation of Zdeněk Němeček's sculpture studio and the adjacent areas was the most significant. Respondents notice the sculptures and art in a public space as something that adds to the peaceful atmosphere of the place. This can act as a rest point when travelling along the cycle path. Children play games here and sitting on the Prague chairs is popular. The second important point is the relatively newly opened Koleto refreshment stand, which is located in a historic building together next to a dance studio. The positive thing about Koleto is that it serves as a focal point of the locality, with its informal and folksy atmosphere. The building in which the company is housed is of historical value, carrying a touch of the old Libeň and remnants of the original architecture in the area.



Where you don't like it

The place received almost no negative evaluations. There is criticism that the space is not utilized sufficiently. “A totally pointless unused grassy area. There could easily be apartments or offices here.” Criticism was also expressed about the poorly designed cycle path – with a narrow profile along its entire length, poor connection to Menclova Street, where cyclists come in contact with cars.



Návrhy a nápady

- Barbecue and picnic area.
- Build a kindergarten here.
- A public park.
- The empty green areas could be built up with new flats.



Location 7

Libeň spit, Gardening colony, docks



Where you like it

The strongest aspect of the Libeň spit is the gardening colony, which harks back to its long tradition, the functioning community of gardeners, and a safe and protected environment. This contrasts with the otherwise relatively wild and unmaintained state of the Manin spit or the rest of Rohan Island. The gardens offer an atmosphere “lost in time” with a series of “places between places”. In addition, the greenery and tranquility of the place create a habitat for a number of animal species rarely seen in the city (lizards, toads, snakes, birds, etc.). The “U Budyho Sanctuary” is very a popular, remarkable spot with its football tennis field. “A bit of a faded glory, but it belongs to Libeň.” The scouts’ facilities, the DDM (youth center) and the docks leave a strong imprint on the area. The positive common denominator of these functions is the offer of activities for children and youth. There are also suitable fishing spots and ice skating during hard winters. For the whole Libeň spit, this is one of the few places in the whole area where the river is within easy reach.

“We felt quite comfortable in this spot. The place was calm, but also feels a bit closed in due to the fence lining all the gardens in the vicinity. We missed better access to the water and also some facilities.”
(student, PORG grammar school)



Where you don't like it

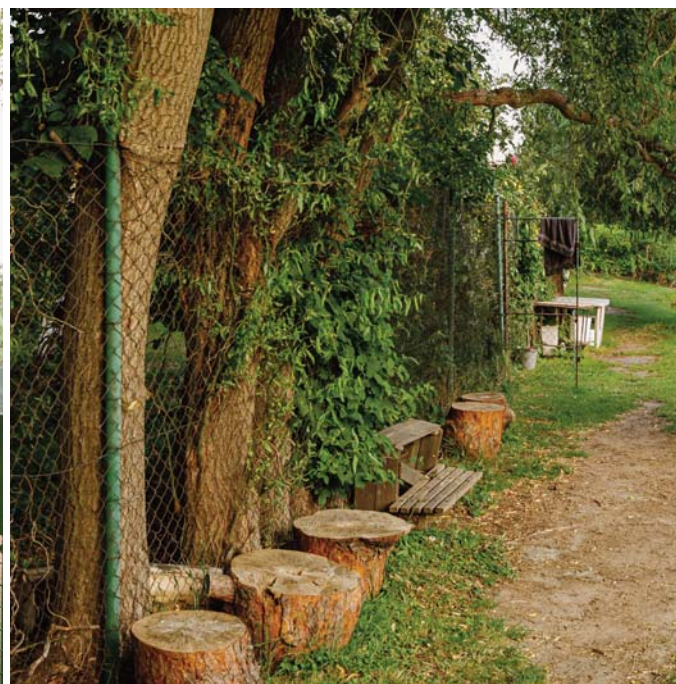
Although outside the investigated area, the strongest negative voices were expressed concerning the enclosed Dock housing complex. People are bothered by the fences and barriers to access the former dock area. Similar criticisms were directed at the gardening colony, which is inaccessible to the general public and so some respondents see it as a “closed area ruined by a few dozen people’s hobby”. Another thing viewed negatively about the gardening colony, is when cottages are transformed into permanent housing heated with poor quality fuel. “Sometimes there’s an unpleasant smell over the winter of people burning shoe leather or who knows what else.” Another problem people see is the mess around the river and in the water, probably brought in by the Rokytka rivulet. People are bothered that the road running through the area goes nowhere and the area (near the tip of the island) generally offers little for ordinary people.

“It’s nice, but we couldn’t see anywhere and we didn’t get anywhere”.
(student, PORG grammar school)



Návrhy a nápady

- Any intervention (in the colony), such as allowing through passage, would be devastating, just look at the mouth of the Rokytka and the mess that is there.
- The need to fight back the knotweed.
- It should stay out of the hands of developers at any cost.
- The gardening colony should be demolished, a park would be suitable instead
- I would add a path for tourists in the garden colony, at least around the perimeter. Otherwise non-gardeners can’t get there.
- The U Budyho pub, together with the surrounding garden colony, should be declared a national cultural monument and protected as such in its current form.



Location 8

Manin spit, harbor/docks, Stará Plavba, car dealerships



Where you like it

People value the Manin spit above all for its potential for the future. It is a large area, surrounded by water on both sides, providing beautiful views and leisure opportunities. The public has a positive perception of the **informality of the environment**, the wildly growing trees, the fishing possibilities and views of Bílá skála (White Rock) and the river. The dead-end branch – Stará Plavba is valuable, a unique spot, both peaceful and wild at the same time. Rare species such as the night heron and the river kingfisher can be found here. The docks at the end of the island are also viewed positively as an example of a suitable use.



Where you don't like it

The public primarily dislike the inaccessibility of the area (fenced-off areas, car dealerships, parking lots or warehouses). They also have a negative perception of industrial operations, associated with dust, dirt and a high frequency of freight vehicle traffic. The place lacks any concept and as a consequence the roads, buildings and greenery are significantly neglected. The evaluation of the car dealerships is mostly negative, but another evaluation exists, which emphasizes “a certain charm, from the 90s, almost circus-like” atmosphere associated with the place to a certain extent. Respondents are bothered that the area is inaccessible and only offers the same path there and back. This relates to proposals for future connections to the riverbank – to the Povltavská cycle path, the Libeň spit or directly to Holešovice.

“I have no idea what's on this piece of land. Is it even possible to get there?”
“Hic sunt leones.”



Návrhy a nápady

- Footbridge from the end of Manin spit to Povltavská Street.
- Connection to the Libeň spit (footbridge, boat).
- Reduce the industrial use and make it more for the public.
- A beach, restaurant, small boat harbor with marina.
- Beach with purified river water (like in Vienna).
- Potential for a water sports center.
- Community gardens supported by the city.
- Potential for beautiful residential development, cafés and restaurants.
- Many opportunities for cafés and social activities.
- The peninsula deserves some care, but not development projects.
- Leave as much of the area as possible a wilderness.
- A well-maintained natural park with paths, barbecues, water access, beaches, swimming pools and sports activities.
- Climbing wall, rope center, workout equipment.
- A dog meadow.
- An industrial cultural space.
- A wild piece of nature. If you make it accessible, do so very carefully, on foot and maybe not even everywhere.
- Leave nature to run its course, the suspicious buildings and the like, but allow its use for swimming and recreation.



Location 9

Cycle path



Hlávka Bridge – Negrelli viaduct

The problematic places are mostly under Hlávka Bridge, where the trail leads through a dark and narrow tunnel. Homeless people sleep in the tunnel, it stinks, water drips from the ceiling and it is dark even on sunny days. Moreover, for cyclists, the shock of the transition from light to dark means momentary blindness, which can end badly. In addition, the trail in this whole segment is confusing, too narrow and excessively winding (at the Hilton terrace and under the Negrelli viaduct). Most regular cyclists know this place and ride carefully, but collisions still occur. “As a cyclist, I’m careful, but pedestrians don’t know how to react quickly.” A barrier-free connection from the Florence area to the cycle path is missing – “a cyclist who starts in Florence cannot get to the cycle path. The Rohan embankment gets in the way, you often can’t get through (e.g. Záborská Street is blocked). Pedestrians have a bridge to the Danube House, but Karlín cyclists don’t.”

Negrelli Viaduct – U Mlýnského kanálu Street (Thámová)

In this section of the cycle path, people most often report problems with the existing surface (in wet and snowy conditions) and the lack of lighting. The surface is fine for some users (mainly runners and cyclists looking for a more adventurous ride), but for the majority it becomes an issue.

“The poor quality surface of the cycle path, in the rain or after a thaw, turns into a quagmire”.

A beaten path winds alongside the trail where pedestrians or cyclists retreat when there are puddles on the surface. The separation of pedestrians and cyclists with a strip of cobble is not functional. There is an issue at the entrance from U Mlýnského kanálu / Thámová streets, where there are no viewing angles and the situation is often complicated by parked cars.

Cement plant – Libeň Bridge (new surface)

For the most part, the new surface and extension of the cycle path is welcome. However, the new situation brings certain concerns – mainly about further increases in the number of users (and their possible collisions) as well as the arrival of new types of users – especially skaters, who are (presumed) to have greater space requirements. The new lighting is welcome, as its lack was felt very strongly. There have been suggestions for routing the trail further away from the facades of houses and closer to the river to give the trail better views. The new trail surface is an issue for runners who were better off running on a surface closer to a natural one.

The intersection with the road that leads to the concrete plant is a problematic place, although collisions don't actually occur here. The second place is at the Libeň Bridge, where the steep approach to the bridge and the location of the intersection of two roads in an inappropriate place has the potential for collisions. The recent tunnel modifications were very welcome.

Interestingly, the trail in this section serves as a shortcut: “Overall, we use the area to shorten our journey to Holešovice. It's faster for me to walk across the meadow to the bus stop. Libeň Bridge would mean I take a tram and transfer at god-awful Palmovka.”

“I run on the cycle path, but I prefer to walk to one side of it.”

(student, PORG grammar school)

“We were sitting on the ground because the benches have just disappeared. But even that wasn't unpleasant.”

(1st year students, U Libeňského zámku grammar school)

Libeň Bridge – Thomayerovy sady park

There are two main problems in this locality – once again, the trail profile is too narrow, leading to concerns about collisions. The cycle path also intersects with car traffic, which is the most frequently mentioned complication – a) the intersection with Štorchova Street, b) the intersection and route of the path along Menclova Street. Other problem areas are the dangerous exit from the gardening colony car park. “The only way for a driver to get off the property is to stick their “nose” onto the trail and hope they don't hit anyone. “The bend just before the on-ramp through the flood gates is also confusing.

“Giant puddles form here.”

“Není moc kde se zastavit, jen tu projíždím.”

(žák 9. tř., ZŠ Bohumila Hrabala)



Návrhy a nápady

- Fast (commuting) and slow (strolling) lanes would make sense.
- Full-length lighting.
- Benches for resting along the way.
- A runner's path / nature trail.



Summary

The evaluation of the individual localities of the Rohan and Libeň islands leads to diametrically different conclusions. From places to go for culture and to hang out with friends, to solid sports venues, functional and non-functional industrial zones, adventure spots, fishing spots, impermeable green spaces, fenced-off gardening colonies and settlements of houseless people. A cycle path winding through the entire area, following the flood wall, is a must for all user groups. In some parts, however, it is not advisable to step off the path. We are left with a mosaic and highly varied territory, which transforms from moment to moment before its visitors' eyes. The changes in the nature of the spaces are intense and surprising, bringing a certain strength. However, some places are essentially off-limits ("hic sunt leones"), something people have grown accustomed to. Those who aren't used to it yet are children and young people, who have mapped out such places very precisely.

Zpracoval:

Ateliér pro veřejnou debatu

07/2021

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03

INVOLVEMENT OF KEY PLAYERS OF ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLAND

Finding a vision for development
of the territory



03

OBSAH

Summary

| Rohan and Libeň Island Concept / Summary of public involvement

Area description

01 / The Territory of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

02 / Locations of the Rohan and Libeň islands / In the eyes of the public and key actors

User's Perspective

03 / Involvement of Key Players / Finding a vision for development of the territory

- Introduction and method
- List of key actors
- Workshops
- Thematic areas 1 – 18
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- Summary

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05 / The Present and Future of Rohan and Libeň islands / Through the eyes of children and students

Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Introduction and method

The key players or stakeholders are seen by the client as a crucial group with whom the prepared design concept needs to be co-developed. This is the only way to achieve results that have a chance to endure over time, respond to the real needs of the territory and are accepted and respected by the users of the territory. This group of stakeholders includes individuals, businesses and institutions, interest groups, operators, public authorities and a range of other organizations whose activities are linked to the territory in various ways. This is a loose and relatively disparate group, but the common denominator of all participants is a detailed knowledge of the environment and its specifics, something not available from other sources. Members are actively engaged in the participatory process to varying degrees. The group is still expanding and “snowballing”. As part of our engagement, we strive to not only capture the nature of the stakeholders’ activities as accurately as possible and blend their interests into the prepared concept, but also to help them get to know and understand each other, which has the potential to lead to a better coexistence in the shared environment.

The involvement of key players was preceded by their mapping. This was done in part directly (based on previous experience and knowledge), and partly through a snowball effect, where individual players referred to other players previously unknown to the project team. Initial activities included a simple online intake questionnaire (23 participants) and a series of introductory interviews (33 interviews) that took place throughout 2020. However, not all the actors contacted expressed interest in meeting us. The output of these research activities is a map of key players (available online here: www.mapotic.com/rohansky-ostrov-mapa-klicovch-hracu). The data collected was also used to propose the active involvement of key players through two consecutive workshops (40 participants in each round). Close cooperation is also envisaged for the following phases of preparation and implementation of the Rohan and Libeň Islands Concept.



¹ These activities were carried out before the subject preparing this report became involved (Atelier for Public Debate).

List of key actors

involved in the preparation of the Concept ☒ YES ☐ NO

Public administration

SELF-GOVERNANCE

- ☒ Prague City Council
- ☒ PRAGUE 8 City District
- ☒ Department of Spatial Development and Construction
- ☒ Department of Health and Social Services
- ☒ PRAGUE 7 City District
- ☒ Department of Development and Public Space Management (ORVP)
- ☒ Investment Department of the City of Prague (INV)
- ☒ Department of Environmental Protection of the City of Prague (OCP)
- ☐ Department of Transport of the City of Prague (ODO)

STATE ADMINISTRATION

- ☐ Environment Department of the Prague 8 City District
- ☐ Prague 8 City District Department of Transport
- ☐ Department of Health and Social Services
- ☒ Prague 8 Building Authority
- ☒ Department of Heritage Protection of the City of Prague (OPP)

CITY ADMINISTRATORS

- ☒ Technická správa komunikací, a.s.
- ☐ DPP, a.s.
- ☒ Pražská vodohospodářská společnost, a.s. (PVS)
- ☐ Pražské vodovody a kanalizace, a.s. (PVK)
- ☒ TCP a.s.
- ☒ Technologie HMP
- ☐ Acton s.r.o.
- ☒ Pražská developerská společnost
- ☒ Revitalization of Štvanice Island
- ☐ Reconstruction of Hlávka Bridge
- ☒ Reconstruction of Libeň Bridge

CITY ADMINISTRATORS

- ☒ Povodí Vltavy (river basin administration)
- ☒ Waterways Directorate of the Czech Republic
- ☐ Státní plavební správa (water navigation)

Stakeholders

CULTURAL ACTORS, HOSPITALITY

- ☒ BAM BU DAH boat
- ☒ Pražská tržnice (market hall)
- ☒ Kolečto refreshments
- ☒ Přístav 18600
- ☒ Invalidovna
- ☐ Baden Baden – Štvanice swimming pool
- ☐ U Budyho pub
- ☒ Löwit's Mill
- ☐ Pod Palmovkou Theatre
- ☐ Fuchs2 – club, cultural center
- ☐ Bike Jesus
- ☐ Studio Alta
- ☐ Villa Štvanice

OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES

- ☒ Sekyra Group
- ☒ Quinn Hotels Praha - Hilton
- ☒ Skanska Reality a.s.,
- ☐ Nesion s.r.o.,
- ☐ RCP s.r.o.,
- ☒ ČSAD Praha holding a.s.,
- ☐ Topas REAL spol. s r.o.,
- ☐ Danube house
- ☐ Amazon court
- ☐ Nile house
- ☐ River Diamond
- ☐ RiGa Thamova s.r.o.,

CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS, INITIATIVES, NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

- ☒ Osmička žije
- ☒ Karlínské nábřeží Association
- ☒ Komunita Rohan, z.s.
- ☒ Sousedé z Orťáku (neighbors' group)
- ☒ Sousedé Osadní (neighbors' group)
- ☒ Sousedé Na Maninách (neighbors' group)
- ☒ Krajínou Přílivu z.s.
- ☐ Troja Basin Urban Park
- ☒ Gardening colony 46
- ☒ Gardening colony 47
- ☐ Palmovka TEĎ (NOW)

LAND OR PROPERTY OWNERS

- ☒ Studio Olgoj Chorchoj
- ☒ České přístavy a.s.
- ☐ Daniel Bezouška
- ☒ Petr Hrbek

LOCAL BUSINESSES, PRODUCTION, SHOPS

- ☐ Carpentry, joinery Libeň
- ☐ Kony car dealership
- ☐ Caros car dealership
- ☐ RPD Auto CZ car dealership
- ☒ Carhelp Prague – Car & Tire Service
- ☒ Auto – Libeň car dealership
- ☐ Auto ARI – Michal Vávra
- ☒ TBG METROSTAV s.r.o. – Prague concrete plant

EDUCATION

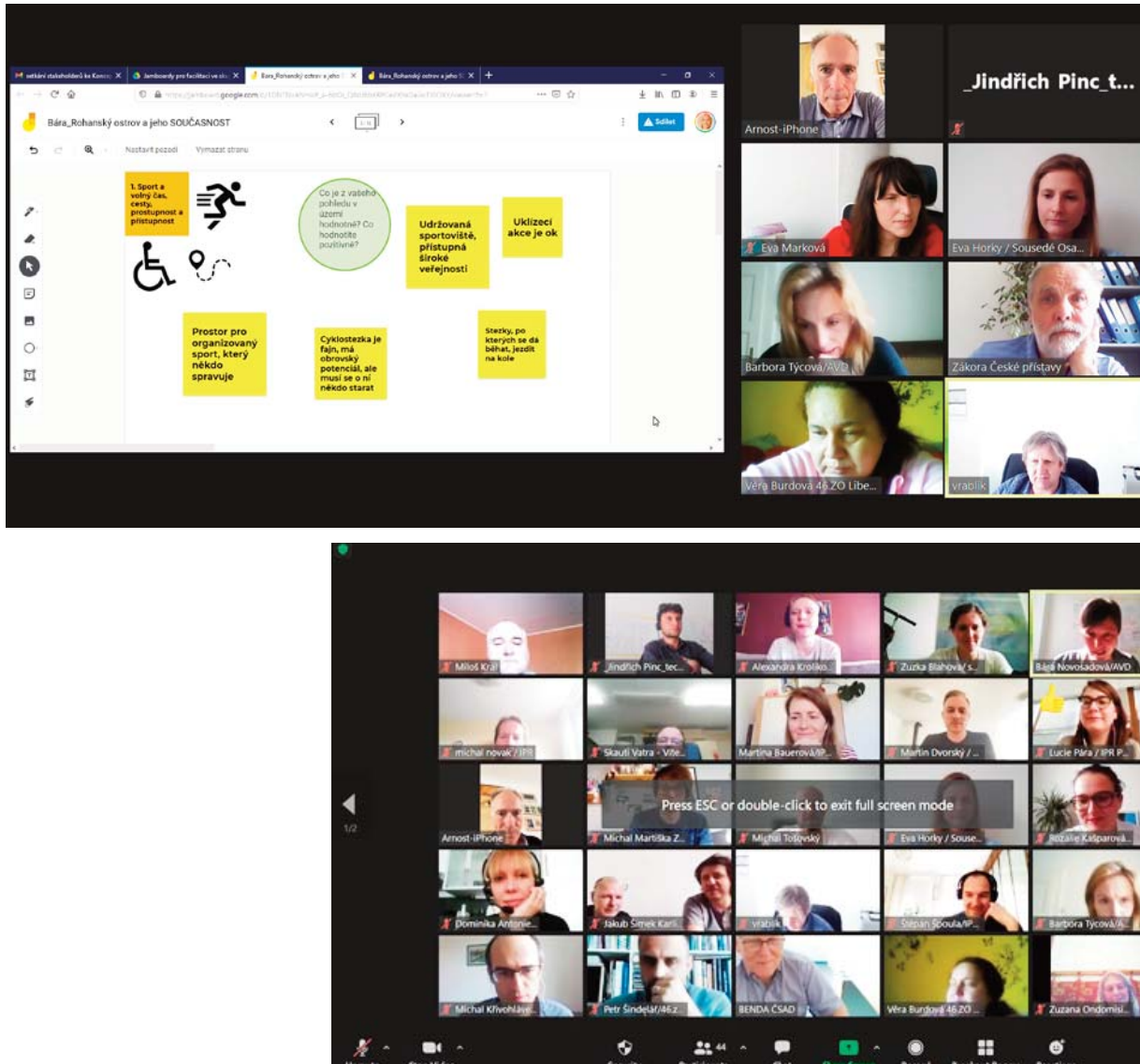
- ☒ Lyčkovo Square Primary and Kindergarten
- ☐ Palmovka Elementary School
- ☒ Bohumil Hrabal Elementary School
- ☐ U Sluncové Elementary school
- ☐ Petra Strozziho Elementary School and Kindergarten
- ☐ Tusarova Elementary School
- ☒ U Libeňského zámku grammar school
- ☒ PORG grammar school

SPORTS AND LEISURE

- ☒ Bikepark
- ☒ Rohan Island Driving Range
- ☒ Iva Langerová Dance School
- ☒ Tennis club Libeňák
- ☒ Alpha gym Prague
- ☒ Aquatic club Raftik; Baraca center Prague
- ☒ Vltava docks DDM (youth center)
- ☒ Scouts in gardens
- ☒ Zlatá kotva scout troop
- ☒ Stará plavba docks
- ☐ Mystic Skatepark
- ☐ I. Czech Lawn – tennis club
- ☒ Docks of the Libeň Island Sports Club

Workshops

A two-phase structure was proposed for the planned workshops – in the first phase there was **an analysis of the territory** from the perspective of local actors and other key players. The second phase was a process of **finding common definitions for the development vision and searching for objectives** that the Concept should be aiming at. Due to the complicated situation surrounding the Covid-19 epidemic, both workshops were eventually held online during the course of **May and June 2021**. Around **40 participants** from the ranks of local politicians, associations, cultural and sports clubs, landowners, companies, officials and other concerned groups attended both workshops.



The data obtained from the first phase was subsequently analyzed and sorted at an **internal expert workshop**, attended by professionals from various fields and members of the Concept development project team. The result of their work was the creation of **18 thematic areas and 18 summarizing “descriptions of the existing situation”**, which also reflect the professional perspective or existing limits in the territory or in legislation. The thematic areas were then used as a basis for Workshop II, which aimed to **find and name the development objectives of the territory** in these areas together with the key actors. The individual objectives were then evaluated by the participants of Workshop II according to their level of agreement with the proposed objective. Each proposed objective could be assigned one of three evaluations:

- I agree with the proposed objective
- I can tolerate the proposed objective
- I don't agree with the proposed objective



The output of this structured process is the following list of all the thematic areas addressed with a condensed-analytical description, the proposed objectives and level of agreement. The “level of agreement” indicator is based on a conversion of the evaluation of participants of round II of the workshop into a point value (2, 1, -2), their sum and the creation of a numerical indicator or index. For simplicity’s sake, a **scale of the level of agreement from high to medium to low was created. Objectives that received a higher number of approval and disapproval points at the same time and are therefore controversial, are marked with a colored arrows symbol.** (X)

Since the individual objectives were formulated through extensive discussion, they are themselves the product of a majority compromise. For some of the objectives, the wording has been reformulated by the subject preparing this report to make them more readable and concise, but their factual content has been retained.

1

Thematic area
Permeability of the territory

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

Although the area is easily accessible along the cycle path, the poor permeability of the whole area is perceived as a major problem. This includes physical impermeability (buildings, fences, private land, industrial areas, gated communities), but also sensory impermeability (tied, for example, to the lack of lighting) or associated with the undersized and messy official or unofficial roads in the area.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Cultivate the park in the southern part of the area so that it is easily accessible and safe.	high
● Connect Karlín with the river banks – to overcome barriers in the territory.	high
● Create a permeability plan/concept.	high
● Ease the burden on the cycle path (e.g. parallel paths with a system of footbridges)	medium
● Open the gardening colony to the public (taking into account safety risks).	low
● Make the bank accessible along its entire length.	low

2

Thematic area

A green link, everywhere is close

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

Not only the geographical location, but also the good connection to public transport and cycling infrastructure of the city make Rohan Island a place that is close to everywhere else. The linearity of the area makes it a natural green link between the center and the open countryside, the wider city center and the adjacent more peripheral districts. This also means a certain risk from ‘corridor’ or ‘passthrough’ uses and associated frictional areas depending on the number of users of the site.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Find a balance between “fast bikers” and others in the area.	high
● Create a high quality green link between the city center and other neighborhoods for all users.	high
● Develop the less exposed parts of the area so that the concentration of people is spread out in the area and the cycle path doesn’t act as a barrier.	high

3

Thematic area
Flood protection

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

After the floods of 2002, it was decided that the vacant land in Karlín and Libeň, which lies in the river floodplain, would serve to protect the city against flooding. Out of the list of flood protection measures, a flood barrier was built (together with a cycle path) and it was also decided that the area behind it would be built up.

The use of the area around the river upstream of the flood protection line as a recreational floodplain is part of the city’s long-standing policy, guaranteed by the zoning and metropolitan plans.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Engage in discussions with all users of the area.	high
● Don’t condense the area, don’t make things worse.	high
● Emphasize education, avoid misinformation.	medium
● It is necessary to adapt to the current state and respect the rules proven to work by the locals.	low


4 Thematic area Governance, amenities, freedom of activity

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The area, with a few localized exceptions, is completely lacking in governance – both in the sense of “maintenance” and “management”. This absence of governance, rules and the lack of predetermined function for parts of the area allows visitors to freely choose how to spend their time. This aspect is perceived as generally positive.

The area is undersized in all aspects of concerning amenities – resting places, playgrounds/playing fields for children and adults, park furniture, public toilets, lighting, pathways, garbage containers, etc.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Develop the area to include places intended for specific purposes (barbecue, sports) and also places allowing a free choice of activity respecting the character of the area.	high
● Amenities and park furniture should be designed to take into account the fact that this is a floodplain.	high
● Develop activities: sports, walking and leisure.	high
● Ensure adequate funding for the administration of the area.	high
● Complete the on-site facilities (toilets, benches).	high
● Administer the area in all aspects (maintenance and management), including providing financing to maintain the quality, safety and freedom of the area after its revitalization.	médium
● Develop the different sites in the area in accordance with their current setting/use.	médium
● Transform and improve “no man’s land” locations, while also supporting spaces already cared for by groups (gardeners, boathouses, etc.).	médium
● Use the area to display artwork.	médium
● Once the area is transformed, it will be a regular managed and administered area (Prague City Department of Environmental Protection), just like other parks of city - wide importance.	médium
● Ensure the function of a single area administrator (see the example of the Nápavka administrator).	low 

5 Thematic area Infrastructure and industry

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The existing industrial infrastructure has a long tradition in the area, but it is currently causing controversy. It brings noise and dust, but is also a temporary pillar of sustainability for the local (planned) development. There is insufficient technical infrastructure for services and users in the area.

However, there are differing views on the use of the privately owned sections of the territory. Disagreements about this use include, for example, current industrial uses (e.g. the concrete plant) or some temporary businesses (e.g. the car dealerships).

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Směřovat čistě k funkci rekreační, nikoliv průmyslové.
- Zachovat průmyslové dědictví jako paměť v podobě stop a jejich začlenění.
- Zajistit prostupnost a celistvost území i při dočasném zachování průmyslové funkce.
- Stanovit časový termín ukončení provozu betonárny.

střední

střední

střední

střední

6 Thematic area People and the river

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The river is an essential attribute of the area, an important landscape interface, a meeting point between people and nature that deserves better access. Because of its attractiveness to all users of the area, it is also a site of potential usage conflicts.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Remind people the river is more than just its riverbed, it is the whole floodplain space.
- Diversify ways to get in contact with the river. Make available and elsewhere preserve space for other natural features where the river isn't accessible.
- Commemorate footprints of the river's vanished past.

medium

medium


medium

7 Thematic area Nature's variety

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

Due to the unplanned character of the area and the lack of greenery maintenance, the biodiversity on land and in the water is gradually developing, both in terms of the number of species and the frequency of their occurrence. This frequency can also lead to conflicts / unexpected contacts with living and dead fauna and flora in the area.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II


Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Improve vegetation and river maintenance.	high
● Revitalize the current vegetation around the banks.	high
● Adapt the vegetation and its diversity for the passage of a possible flood.	medium
● Keep part of the area inaccessible to the public to ensure the diversity of fauna/flora.	medium 

8 Thematic area Urban wilderness

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

There is a wildness and certain impenetrability of nature here, within human reach from the wider city center. This allows one to escape the urban context, but at the same time makes some parts inaccessible, creating perceived “unsafe” areas and allowing the spread of non-native species.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Find common ground between landowners, land users and city officials.	high
● Establish enclaves with more or less intensive maintenance.	medium
● Promote public awareness of what constitutes “wilderness”.	medium
● Respond to planned changes in the area by modifying the concept of deliberate wilderness.	low 

9 Thematic area Nature in the center

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

Its proximity to the very heart of the city, its position at the junction of several neighborhoods of the broader city center and the size of the area mean it was destined to be the lungs of the city, a place to breathe in many senses – where one can be alone, can grow, a breath of fresh air for the built-up areas. The area, due to its position in the city center, is seen to have potential for urban development.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II


Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Develop the countryside and surrounding buildings so as to avoid displacing existing users.	high
● Create an adequate transition between the urbanized section and open nature in the buildable area between Olgoj Chorchoj and the half-timbered house.	high
● Preserve as much of the existing greenery in the area as possible (construction will rapidly increase in the surrounding area).	high

10 Thematic area A chance to be alone

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The wildness and remoteness of the locality seem out of place in the wider city center. It allows expeditions in search of adventure or solitude.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Preserve and cultivate the community space.	high
● Enable a diversity of communities and leisure activities.	high
● Don't let the space get too commercialized.	medium
● Promote/maintain “natural” wildness, maintain “social” wildness + safety.	low 

11 Thematic area Service islands

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The area has venues of diverse types for a variety of users, offering hospitality and other services. However, due to their size, these are somewhat isolated islands. There is a risk of future gentrification of these and any new services.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II


Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Preserve the genius loci of the place, including services.	high
● Preserve the community character of the East Libeň spit, but open the community to the public in a controlled manner.	medium
● Monitor the diversity of services to serve all, for example develop local markets.	medium
● Developing the Manin spit (with services) is a priority (incl. the floodplain).	medium

12 Thematic area A place for formal and informal sports

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The variety of sports activities the area provides is unprecedented in Prague. There are official sports grounds and spaces for spontaneous activities, for individual and group sports. Even so, their capacity and offer does not make full use of the place's potential and deserves a coordinated approach. The overcrowded cycle path is its own separate issue.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Improve safety markings on the cycle route (e.g. a mirror in Meclova Street, etc.).	medium
● Provide new public sports facilities (currently privately owned).	medium
● Build outdoor oases for sports in the context of new development.	low 

13

Thematic area Activities for children

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

Rohan and Libeň Island are a traditional place for organized or open entertainment for children – the Youth Center, the boating club, scout troop, dance school, etc., all of which provide children with entertainment in an otherwise rapidly gentrifying area. The locality also has the potential for use by schools, etc.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Create a common flexible recreational space for diverse groups.
- Preserve Rohan Island as a place of diverse organized and unorganized activities.
- Find an activities and amenities administrator/coordinator/communicator.

high

high

medium

14

Thematic area Local memory

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

This territory remembers a lot – the river, the Baroque period, industry, world wars. Although most users mostly think about the current state of the place – as an open green space – that local memory, ingrained within the very fibers of the place, is a value that is important to remember.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Commemorate of the place in different ways in the area – a job for the park administrator.
- Reflect the historical aspects of the territory in their diversity – local and social.
- Return a living map to the territory (there used to be a map of the then Czech Kingdom made of trees, water channels, etc.).

high

medium

low

15

Thematic area Art and culture in nature

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The spontaneity of the place and its rich history mean it is destined to be an interesting stage for live culture and art in nature – especially site-specific performance and land art. Care should be taken to ensure a variety of offerings for diverse user groups alongside an appropriate means of communicating and promoting cultural activities.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Reserve the space for spontaneous activities.
- Formalize and plan for small future sites (e.g., bonfire pits).
- Don't physically anchor one particular activity in one place.

high

medium

low



16

Thematic area Open space in the city

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The area is unique in that it offers extensive free and open space with views of the surrounding countryside and city. People may feel this large open space is underused, but the fact is that it attracts and inspires an unlimited type and variety of activities, making it of crucial importance for the city.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures

Level of agreement

- Preserve the non-determinism of the open space.
- Create a mental separation / barrier to keep out the busy city.
- Expand the park to include the river area, to experience everything as one large expansive space.

medium

medium



medium

17 Thematic area A place for everyone

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

The indeterminacy of the place and its strong community history make Rohan and Libeň islands a place for everyone – for locals, for the inhabitants of Prague as well as the whole Czech Republic and different social groups.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Create a space for all groups of people.	medium
● Emphasize the strengths of the area: existing features, greenery and size.	low 
● Ensure accessibility for residents from the wider area or other parts of Prague.	low 

18 Thematic area Komunita, sociální exkluze a gentrifikace

Description of the current situation based on the results of Workshop I:

In Prague, this is one of the places which still has strong community energy, especially in the Libeň Island section. This energy is viewed in a generally positive way, as long as it is open to outside suggestions and people.

However, enclaves of social exclusion (homelessness, hipster hangouts...) are already present in the area to a lesser extent, although these are mainly future risks associated with the ongoing and planned construction in the vicinity as well as the gentrification of Karlín, Palmovka and the surrounding area.

Strategic objectives in the area formulated during Workshop II

Proposed objectives and measures	Level of agreement
● Don't define public space for only the new residents of the neighborhood, preserve it for current users and their needs.	high
● Provide enough public space for different communities.	medium
● Provide space for new communities to emerge while preserving the diversity of public spaces.	medium

Tabulka cílů rozvoje

objective title	area	index	level of agreement
Ensure adequate funding for the administration of the area.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	2.0	high
Engage in discussions on the subject of flooding with all users of the area.	Flood protection	1.9	high
Connect Karlín with the river banks – to overcome barriers in the territory.	Permeability of the territory	1.9	high
Develop the area to include places intended for specific purposes (barbecue, sports) and also places allowing a free choice of activity respecting the character of the area.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.9	high
Develop activities: sports, walking and leisure.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.9	high
Preserve Rohan Island as a place of diverse organized and unorganized activities.	Activities for children	1.9	high
Don't define public space for only the new residents of the neighborhood, preserve it for current users and their needs.	Community, social exclusion and gentrification	1.9	high
Amenities and park furniture should be designed to take into account the fact that this is a floodplain.	Flood protection	1.9	high
Provide on-site facilities (toilets, benches, etc.).	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.9	high
Preserve the genius loci of the place, including services.	Service islands in the territory	1.9	high
Develop the countryside and surrounding buildings so as to avoid displacing existing users.	Nature in the city center	1.9	high
Do not further condense the area, do not exacerbate potential flood damage.	Flood protection	1.9	high
Establish sanitary facilities (toilets).	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.8	high
Create a common flexible recreational space for diverse groups.	Activities for children	1.8	high
Reserve the space for spontaneous activities.	Art and culture in nature	1.8	high
Find a balance between “fast bikers” and other users of the area.	A green link, everywhere is close	1.8	high
Create a high quality green link between the city center and other neighborhoods for all users.	A green link, everywhere is close	1.8	high
Find common ground between landowners, land users and city officials.	Urban wilderness	1.8	high
Create a permeability plan/concept.	Permeability of the territory	1.8	high
Improve vegetation and river maintenance.	Nature's variety	1.8	high
Develop the less exposed parts of the area so that the concentration of people is spread out in the area and the cycle path doesn't act as a barrier.	A green link, everywhere is close	1.8	high
Create an adequate transition between the urbanized section and open nature in the buildable area between Olgoj Chorchoj and the half-timbered house.	Nature in the city center	1.8	high
Preserve as much of the existing greenery in the area as possible (construction will rapidly increase in the surrounding area).	Nature in the city center	1.8	high
Commemorate the place in different ways in the area – a job for the park administrator.	Local memory	1.8	high
Enable a diversity of communities and leisure activities.	A chance to be alone	1.7	high
Preserve and cultivate the community space.	A chance to be alone	1.7	high
Move the car dealerships outside the area.	Infrastructure and industry	1.7	high
Establish enclaves with more or less intensive maintenance.	Urban wilderness	1.6	high
Promote public awareness of what constitutes “urban wilderness”.	Urban wilderness	1.6	high
Don't let the space get too commercialized.	A chance to be alone	1.6	high
Cultivate the park in the southern part of the area so that it is easily accessible and safe.	Permeability of the territory	1.6	high
Revitalize the current vegetation around the banks.	Nature's variety	1.6	high
Create a space for all groups of people.	A place for everyone	1.6	high
Provide enough public space for different communities.	Community, social exclusion and gentrification	1.6	high
Emphasize education, avoid misinformation on flood protection issues.	Flood protection	1.6	high
Develop the different sites in the area in accordance with their current setting/use.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.6	high
Reflect the historical aspects of the territory in their diversity – local and social.	Local memory	1.6	high
Administer the area in all aspects (maintenance and management), including providing financing to maintain the quality, safety and freedom of the area after its revitalization.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.6	high
Transform and improve “no man's land” locations, while also supporting spaces already cared for by groups (gardeners, boathouses, etc.).	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.6	high
Build small infrastructure – facilities (e.g. docks).	Infrastructure and industry	1.6	high
Commemorate footprints of the river's vanished past.	People and the river	1.5	medium
Preserve the non-determinism of the open space.	Open space in the city	1.5	medium
Provide space for new communities to emerge while preserving the diversity of public spaces.	Community, social exclusion and gentrification	1.5	medium
Use the area to display artwork.	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.5	medium
Set a time limit for the closure of the concrete plant.	Infrastructure and industry	1.5	medium
Monitor the diversity of services to serve all, for example develop local markets.	Service islands in the territory	1.5	medium
Adapt the vegetation and its diversity for the passage of a possible flood.	Nature's variety	1.5	medium
Improve safety markings on the cycle route (e.g. a mirror in Meclova Street, etc.).	A place for formal and informal sports	1.5	medium
Find an activities and amenities administrator/coordinator/communicator.	Activities for children	1.5	medium

objective title	area	index	level of agreement
Diversify ways to get in contact with the river. Make available and elsewhere preserve space for other natural features where the river isn't accessible.	People and the river	1.5	medium
Remind people the river is more than just its riverbed, it is the whole floodplain space.	People and the river	1.5	medium
Ease the burden on the cycle path (e.g. parallel paths with a system of footbridges).	Permeability of the territory	1.4	medium
Direct towards a purely recreational function, not an industrial one.	Infrastructure and industry	1.4	medium
Expand the park to include the river area, to experience everything as one large expansive space.	Open space in the city	1.4	medium
Create a mental separation / barrier to keep out the busy city.	Open space in the city	1.4	medium
Preserve the community character of the East Libeň spit, but open the community to the public in a controlled manner.	Service islands in the territory	1.4	medium
Provide new public sports facilities (existing sports facilities are privately owned).	A place for formal and informal sports	1.4	medium
Ensure the permeability and integrity of the area while temporarily maintaining its industrial functions.	Infrastructure and industry	1.3	medium
Preserve the industrial heritage as a memory in the form of footprints and their incorporation.	Infrastructure and industry	1.3	medium
Formalize and plan for small future sites (e.g., bonfire pits).	Art and culture in nature	1.3	medium
Ensure standard management and administration of the area, just like other parks of city-wide importance (through the OCP HMP).	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.3	medium
Developing the Manin spit (with services) is a priority (incl. the floodplain).	Service islands in the territory	1.3	medium
Keep part of the area inaccessible to the public to ensure diversity of fauna/flora.	Nature's variety	1.2	medium 
Encourage and preserve natural wilderness. Treat "social" wildness, including safety issues.	A chance to be alone	1.2	medium 
Make the bank accessible along its entire length.	Permeability of the territory	1.0	low 
Ensure the function of a single area administrator (see the example of the Náplavka administrator).	Governance, amenities, freedom of activity	1.0	low 
Build outdoor oases for sports in the context of new development.	A place for formal and informal sports	1.0	low 
Return a living map to the territory (there used to be a map of the then Czech Kingdom made of trees, water channels, etc.).	Local memory	1.0	low 
Accentuate the strengths that make the area a place for all: greenery, existing content and size.	A place for everyone	1.0	low 
It is necessary to adapt to the current state and respect the flood-prevention rules proven to work by the locals.	Flood protection	0.9	low 
Ensure accessibility for residents from the wider area or other parts of Prague.	A place for everyone	0.8	low 
Open the gardening colony to the public (taking into account safety risks).	Permeability of the territory	0.7	low 
Respond to planned changes in the area by modifying the concept of "deliberate wilderness".	Urban wilderness	0.7	low 
Don't physically anchor one particular activity in one place.	Art and culture in nature	0.6	low 

Summary

Together with key actors, we gathered various themes and thematically organized them into 18 areas. Examples include: the variety of nature, administration and maintenance, sports, the river, floods, industry, amenities, culture, activities for children, etc. The **key players described these areas in detail** and from various viewpoints, and then **proposed strategic objectives** for the areas as well as measures to achieve them. A vote was attached to each objective and measure, giving us a three - dimensional idea of people's preferences. They are clearly arranged above in the text in 18 sub - tables and one summary table.

There is a **high level of agreement** on which objectives can be directly influenced by this Concept, whether this involves ensuring adequate financial resources for the area's administration (absolutely the highest agreement), following up on already functioning activities and the area's context, as well as the history and specific genius loci. There is also a high level of support for specific measures responding to significant deficits in the area, such as the poor connection to Holešovice (but also to Karlín), the poor permeability of the area, the complicated access to the river, the unsatisfactory condition of the cycle path or the addition of many different kinds of park furniture. In contrast, objectives that affect certain user groups or key players more than others and understandably arouse certain emotions, have a **low level of agreement**. This could be the opening of the gardening colony to the public, the opening up of the riverbank along its entire length, or the future of certain functions in the area (industry, boat transport, car dealerships). Some of the objectives are thus **controversial** – problematic for some users while welcome for others. These are marked with the colored arrow symbol. Another example with a low level of agreement are objectives that are specific and essentially don't concern the other key players in any way. As a result they fail to arouse much enthusiasm (e.g. the implementation of the so-called living map). For **medium levels of agreement**, the above principles combine and should be kept in mind when reading them.

Due to the difficult conditions (Covid-19), the facilitated debates were moved to an online environment, which lead to certain limitations. Even so, this process eventually came to some conclusions, and these can be built on further. The active involvement of key players is essential for the Concept and will continue in the following phases of preparation.

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04

USERS OF ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

Field
interviews



04

OBSAH

Summary

| Rohan and Libeň Island Concept / Summary of public involvement

Area description

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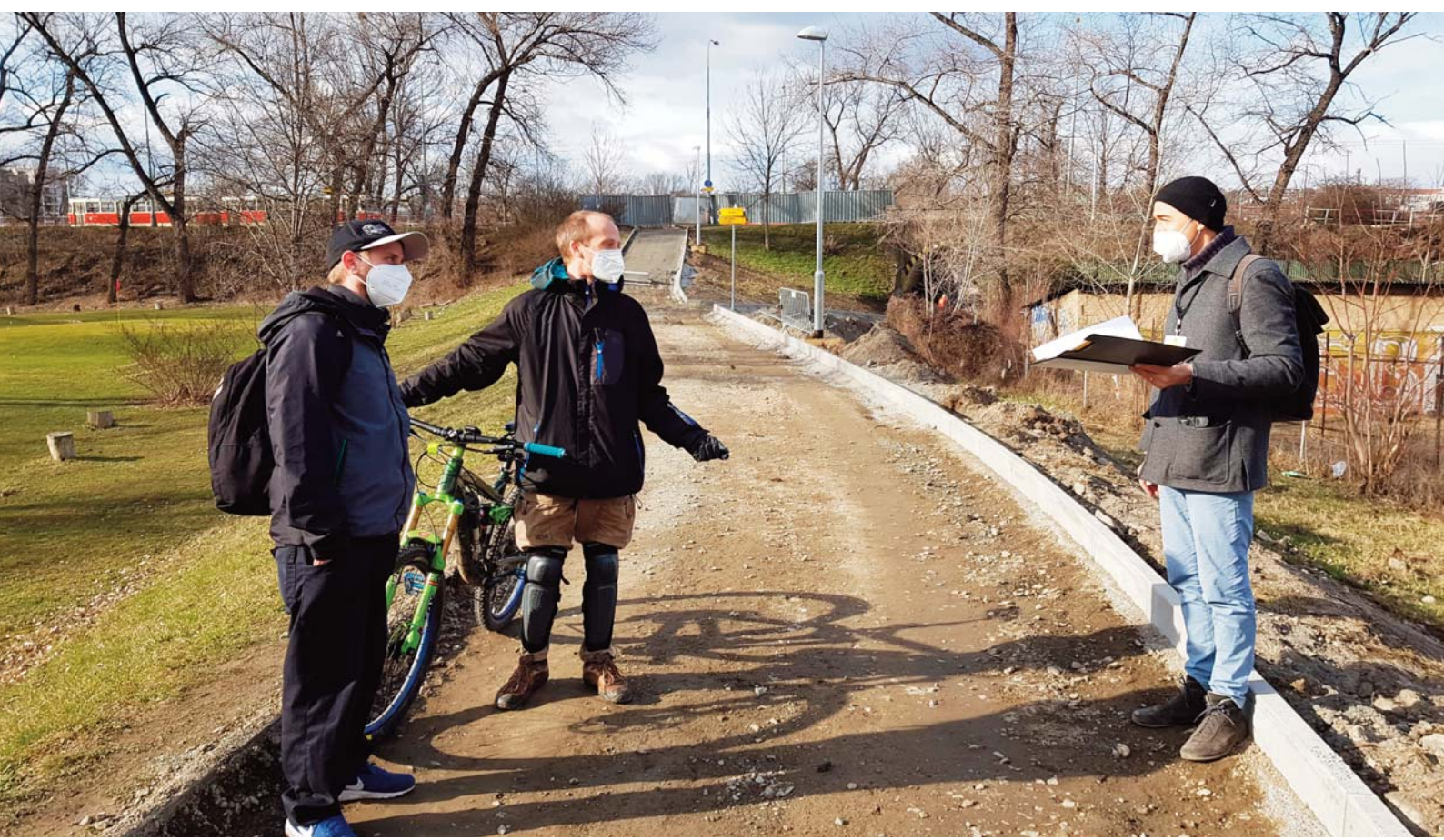
- Introduction and method
 - Walkers and runners
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-

05 / The Present and Future of Rohan and Libeň islands
/ Through the eyes of children and students

Additional topics

06 / Rohan and Libeň Island Territory / Homeless people

Introduction and method



In this section of the report, we will describe the most common user roles or typical behaviors and uses of the territory. To develop our Concept, it is essential to know how people actually carry out their favorite activities here. It also helps to understand what works well and what hinders specific activities in the territory, as well as the relationships between specific roles and other users, including potential for future improvement. **Through observation and questioning**, we found that the following roles were particularly important: **walking and running, parent-child outings, and cycling / wheeled sports**. When designing our research, we assumed that users come to the territory with a certain approach, and this characteristic attitude gives them the opportunity to experience the area in their own way. We also assumed that the roles are clear enough to be more or less consciously identified by the users themselves. And that in contrast to their own role, users will react or identify themselves in relation to others. This assumption was only partially confirmed. In nearly **forty in-depth interviews**, it became clear that a large proportion of users use the territory for a combination of multiple roles on an alternating basis. In other words, there is a high degree of **role permeability**. To explain, people who cycle here also know what it feels like to be walking there. People just walking in the area have previously been there with a child and consider this experience, etc. Based on this experience, we consider the roles to be largely analytical categories to help to represent and explain user functions in the territory.

For a deeper understanding, we asked users for a visual record of the typical route that they take in their role in the territory. This resulted in maps of walking routes, running routes and cycling routes. We have examined the resulting paths and recorded their typical characteristics in a separate statement on path routes.

Walkers and runners



Positive aspects. An overall positive evaluation prevails and people enjoy walking here (“walkway in Karlín”). An open space without cars, the trees, nature and the river are all welcome, especially while accessible from the city center. It is a convenient link between two destinations for many residents, usually home and work. People mostly walk along the cycle path, which is well connected, some also walk by the river, around and across the large meadow. The emptiness is seen by people as comforting.

Negative aspects and conflicts. There is only one road, which is not enough in the respondents’ viewpoints: “people only generally use the middle part of the area and that’s a pity”. This gives some interviewees the feeling there are too many people here. They don’t like how certain places are neglected, nor the litter. There is a problem with mud on and next to the trail and a lack of lighting (note this survey was carried out in the winter and spring of 2021). Collisions between pedestrians and cyclists do occur, but are infrequent. Parts of the walk are not viewed positively by some (under the bridge). Freight traffic around the Libeň spit is quite the burden. Some members of the public feel annoyed or afraid of the homeless. The area behind the golf course is for some a forbidden area (“hic sunt leones”), people are afraid to go there – perhaps because homeless people leave their dogs off the leash. Homeless people make people insecure as to their behavior and so the respondents tend to avoid them (“I prefer to avoid going into the wilderness”).

Suggestions and ideas. The welcome changes that were heard included modifications to the wild spots (“make it less of a jungle, make the space more usable”), but at the same time people strongly require this natural character. Pedestrians and cyclists could be separated in some places, the trail widened, and path networks for walking and running could generally be added to: “fix the paths along the water, I’d like that” or “more trees and a wild nature path with better access to the water”. In terms of conditions for runners, some say it is possible to take inspiration from nearby Stromovka. Add lighting for safety, seating along the paths or create new nooks and seating areas to complement the walks (“pensioners have nowhere to sit here”), play or sports features, toilets and refreshments – these are all recurring ideas. Pedestrians would also welcome access to the spits, this accessibility could be supported by a bridge to Povltavská Street.

The meaning of journeys. We asked about the nature of people's journeys. What journeys are they? What is the nature of these journeys? Why do people make them? Based on the testimonies, the nature of people's walking journeys can be determined as follows: 1) intentional walks for the purpose of relaxation and release, being in nature, walking the dog, 2) natural connections from one place to another (work, school), 3) sports walking and running, 4) going for a beer or other interest in the area, 5) fishing, and 6) local residence – homelessness.

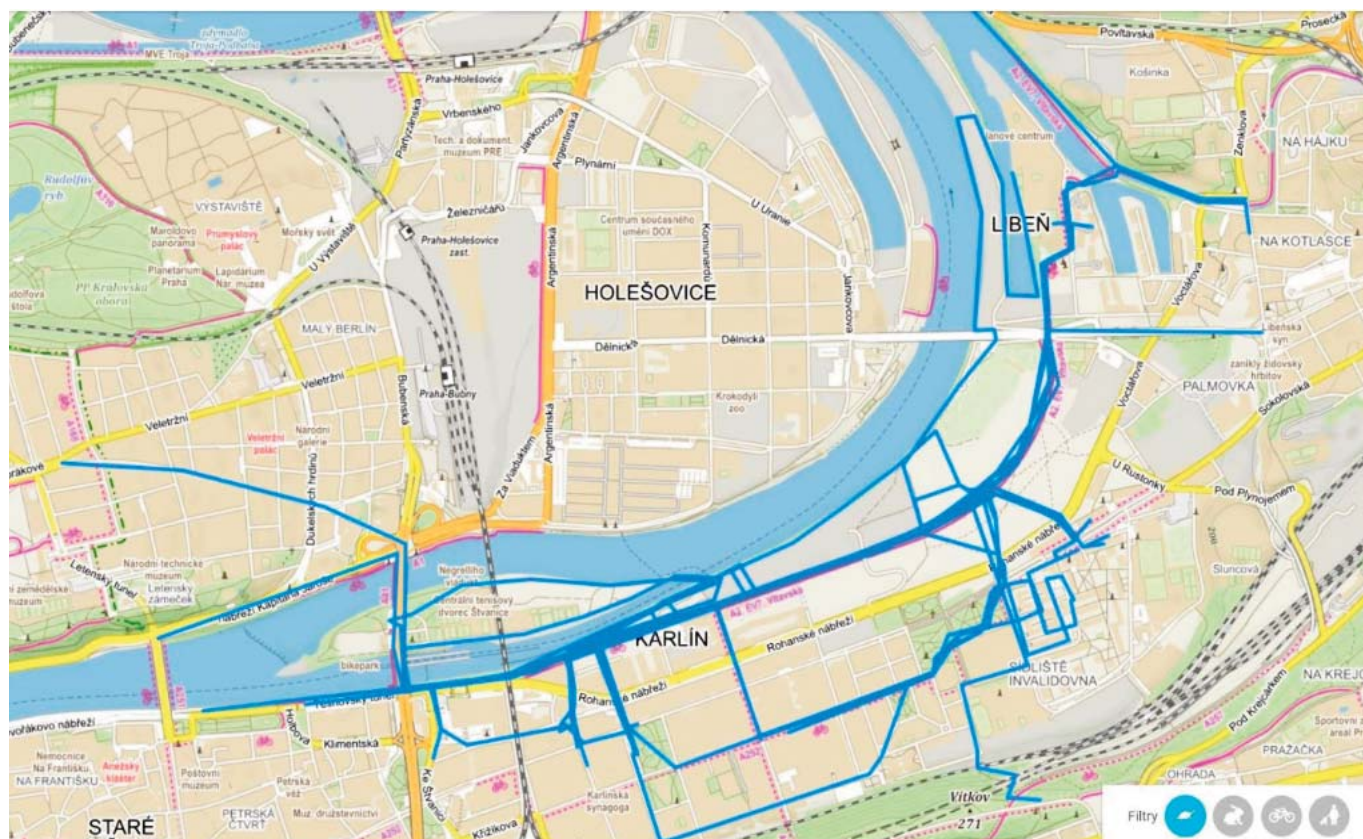


Image: map of walking routes

Routes people walk down. Most pedestrian paths run along the A2 cycle path. The western part of the area, between the Negrelli viaduct and the HolKa ferry is the most congested. The main sources of these journeys are Karlín, Invalidovna and Libeň. The starting points in Karlín lead through parks in Karlín Square and Kaizl Gardens. The boarding points from Prague 7 are Hlávka Most and the HolKa ferry. Some of the paths have a connection to Štvanice Island.

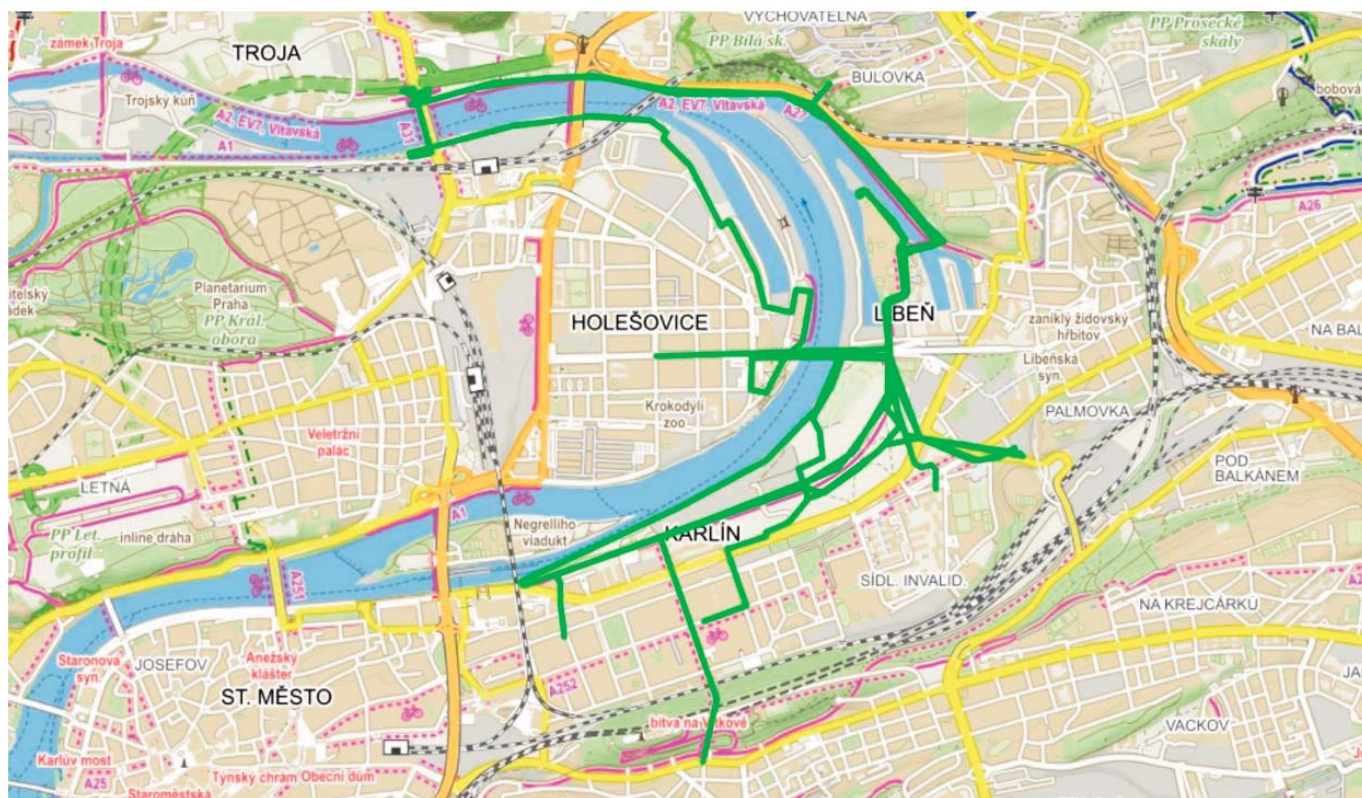


Image: map of running routes

Parents with children



Positive aspects. Adults spending time with their children in the area most value the quiet, a natural spot in the city, having a car-free environment in the city center and its undeveloped nature. They see the island as an accessible, interesting place and use the cycle path in combination with other spaces: “the plain is key for us” or “natural areas are rare to me, the plain is fascinating”. Some respondents use the area very frequently (“nonstop during lockdown”) and the island operates year-round for these groups, although naturally even more in the summer. Adults who experienced their childhood here recall the adrenaline-filled, fun environment full of adventure and after-dark scavenger hunts. The cycle path itself is good for getting around with kids (state of clay surfaces before 5/2021).

Negative aspects and conflicts. Lack of lighting and fear of vagrants / homeless people give the impression of a threat (“we avoid going into the wilderness”). Sharing the cycle path with fast and slow users (especially cyclists vs. children) is dangerous. In winter there is no ferry connection to Holešovice. Lack of children’s playgrounds.

Suggestions and ideas. A safe cycle path, benches, elements and routes for children along the water and water channels – these are the most common ideas from parents, grandparents and educators. A happy solution would be to make it so the different user groups aren’t always together (“people with children look at things differently – for example, the speed of cyclists”). A number of families from Karlín and Libeň complain about the lack of playgrounds in these areas. Building a playground, including a play area for older children, seems like an excellent idea. Let’s finish with the concern “don’t make it a playground for snobs”.

Cyclists



Positive aspects. The area works as a great connection from one place to another, it's the shortest and nicest route without cars ("the cycle path is great"). People can avoid the main roads and are off them for a long stretch. Residents cycle this way between their homes, workplaces, and other locations, enjoying the surroundings and appreciating the excellent non-urban atmosphere, the convenient trails, and the river. So most of them don't have it as their destination. They see it as a path through a beautiful area, moreover linked to Karlín and other city districts and spots along the Vltava River, which are easy to ride through for Prague. Some mention other cyclists they see repeatedly on their rides and say hello to each other ("I like sporty people, it's a nice atmosphere"). As for the surface, opinions vary and even some cyclists appreciated the original gravel surface. A good spot for cyclists is the Koleto refreshments, where they can meet other cyclists and friends.

Negative aspects and conflicts: The second, almost equally large group of cyclists believes that designated lanes should be used to separate cyclists and pedestrians and to widen the congested path. Add more traffic streams, possibly alternate different types. If there were two paths, you could choose. The same applies to passing pedestrians with dogs on the cycle path. Collisions with cars are rare (near the new construction). Cyclists complain about pass-through restrictions due to construction and (temporary) construction decks. In the winter, the maintenance of the cycle path is unsatisfactory (note that this Prague winter was exceptionally snowy).

Suggestions and ideas: Suggestions for the future included better marking of paths for cyclists, components for adults, amenities – a stall, a café on the cycle path, "something on the cycle path", a bike repair shop. It would be good to properly mark the trail, gently influence inconsiderate users, use sound (bicycle bell) and encourage tolerance.

Routes of bicycle journeys. Unlike walks and the routes taken by parents and children, cyclists' routes almost always lead beyond the defined area of Rohan Island. They arrive from further away or travel further. Surprisingly, the main transit point in our sample was not the A2 cycle path, but Kaizl Gardens, probably due to the fact that most of our respondents were local residents (from Karlín). Longer roads lead this way, from north to south and from east to west.



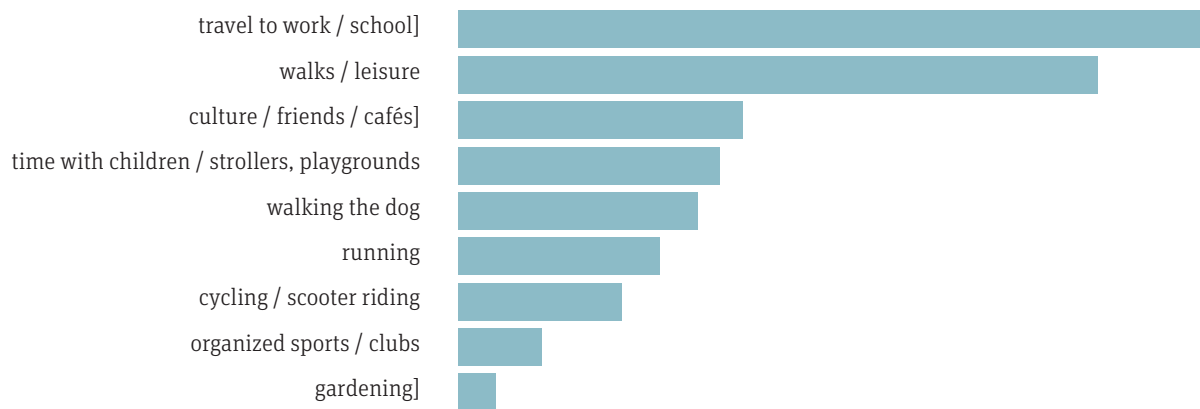
Image: Bicycle route map

Comparison with questionnaire data

The question about the type of activity and the frequency of repetition was also included in the implemented electronic questionnaire. We assigned roughly corresponding numerical values (daily, several times a week, monthly, etc.) and multiplied by the number of responses. As a result, the following graph shows the proportion of individual activities in the area. **Journeys to work or school therefore rank first, due to their frequent repetition and strong first place representation.** Surprisingly, however, recreational walks occupy a similarly strong position, likely related to the high number of respondents residing in the vicinity of the study area. The low score for cyclists is based on the fact that most of their answers fall into the frequency of once or more a week and once or more a month.

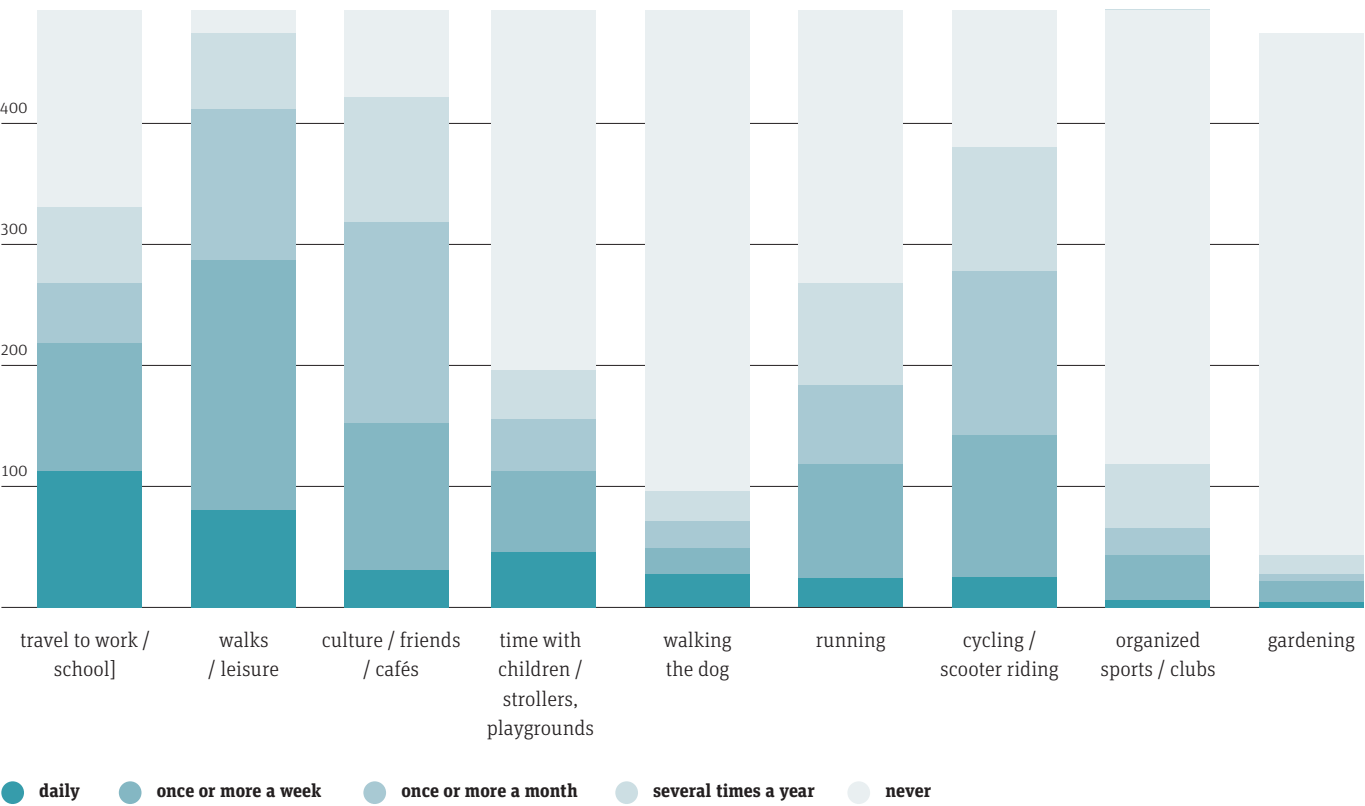
Activities in the territory: level of representation

(electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses)



Activities in the territory of Rohan Island

the chart shows the total figures unbiased by conversion to values (electronic questionnaire, spring 2021, 491 responses)



Summary

For pedestrians and runners, the park's long linear profile works perfectly along the waterfront. Everything here is appropriate for these activities. You can really stretch your legs or break into a run and this feeling will last for some time. Unfortunately, this only works on the single paved (cycle) path running the entire length and therefore everyone encounters each other there. There are almost no other paths, movement elsewhere is hindered by overgrown areas, mud and fear. Adults with children appreciate the locality's tranquility, expansiveness (plains), the trail and the more adventurous feel to the area than is offered by traditional urban playgrounds. Their most negative appreciation is that it's difficult to get outside the trail area, let alone to the water. Of course, there is a risk of collisions between children and pedestrians (slow) and cyclists or skaters (fast) on the cycle path. The addition of different types of less conventional playgrounds for different age groups would be welcome. Cyclists love the place. It is used by people who regularly travel around the city, as well as recreational users. Some prefer the current paved surface, others remember the previous clay surface as a welcome change in the context of Prague. Among the suggestions for improvement, there were several useful ideas from experienced users, concerning safety, wideness, lanes, etc.

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05

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

Through the eyes
of children and students

“An abandoned area. I felt I had no business being there. It wasn’t peaceful there. The ground was covered in litter, although there are garbage cans a bit further on. I wouldn’t go there again. It felt like there was nothing to see. Only the remains of the tracks, the ramp and the ferry were interesting. And a hare.”

05

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Introduction and method

The goal of involving children and young people was to make sure these important current and future users of the environment participate in the Concept development. With the older ones, we were particularly careful to properly explain the principles of shared decision-making about the environment and to portray them as rights belonging to all groups in a democratic society. The task in this part of our work was therefore to describe the area through the eyes of children and teenagers, to include their suggestions in the specification and in this way contribute to the future quality of the environment. Last, but not least, we wanted to encourage children and young people to take an interest in their environment and strengthen their relationship to it. We managed to include 32 children (ages 6–13) and 115 students (ages 14–17). We met with children in the information container in the field and with students in their schools.

AHOJ! *Líza*

Máme pro tebe dotazník, protože bychom chtěli zjistit, co máš rád/a na svém městě a co bys třeba rád/a měl/a, ale v blízkosti domu to nemáš. To, co ti vyhovuje, označ lepitkem. U každé otázky můžeš vybrat víc možností a můžeš i něco připsat.

Je mi ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☒ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 let.

Když mám volno, jsem nejraději ☒ venku ☐ ovčím.

Když jdu ven, jdu ☒ něčím ☐ na kole ☐ na koloběžce ☒ na skótu.

na

Když jdu ven, jdu ☐ sám/sama ☒ s dospělákem ☒ s kamarády.

Kdybys si mohl/a vybrat, jdu nejraději

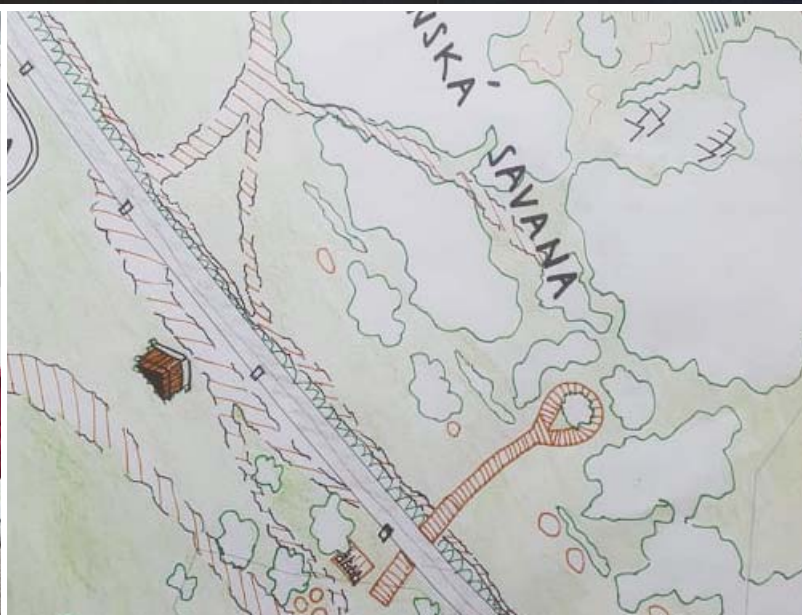
☒ někam, kde roste hodně stromů. ☒ někam, kde si můžu sednout a pozorovat.

☐ někam, kde můžu na něčem jezdit. ☐ někam, kde můžu sportovat.

☐ někam, kde si můžu hrát v vodě. ☒ někam, kde můžu odpočívat.

☒ někam, kde se můžu schovat. ☒ někam, kde můžu něco vytáhnout.

někam, kde *můžu pozorovat zvířata a někde kde je hřiště*

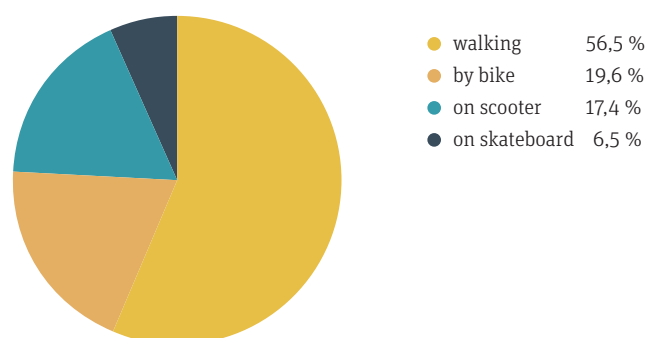


Children 6 – 13 years

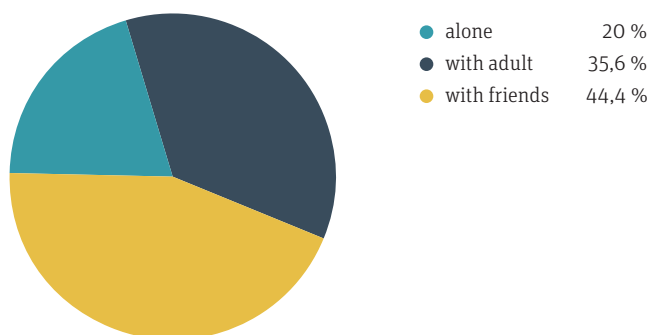
Children aged 6–13, most of whom live in adjacent localities, commented on the topic of Rohan Island at an information container that was placed in the area of Karlín Square and Invalidovna in May 2021. With the assistance of parents, teachers or on their own (most often) they filled in a short questionnaire called HELLO!. Its primary purpose was to ask about their preferred way of spending time outdoors and the activities that the children consider fun that it is possible to implement in the area in its current or future form. Because the information container was not located directly in the Rohan Island area and it was not unclear to what extent the children were familiar with the environment, the questions in the questionnaire were formulated more generally rather than referring to specific places in the area. We managed to get the responses of 32 children. There was no limit to the number of responses per question, so in some cases the total number of responses per question exceeded the number of child respondents. However, we were interested in the proportion of responses (expressed as fractions or percentages), not the total number.

¾ of children prefer to spend time outside rather than inside.

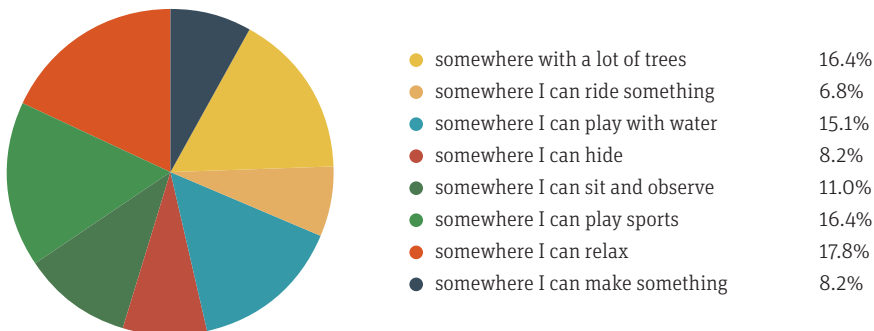
More than half of them go outside **on foot** and about a fifth of them go outside on their bike.



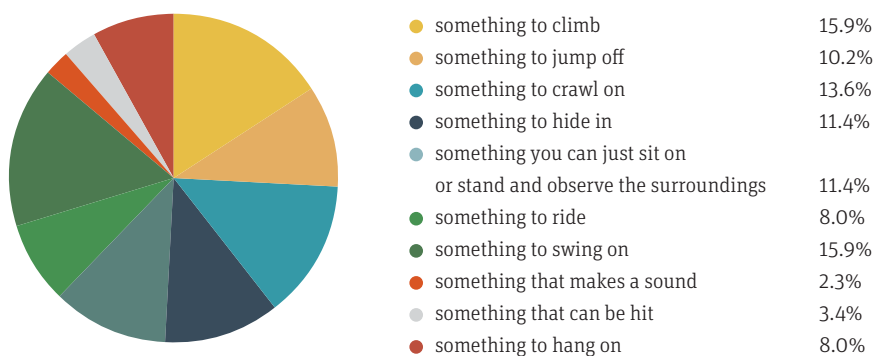
More often than not, the child will go out **in the company of either friends or adults**, something likely determined by age.



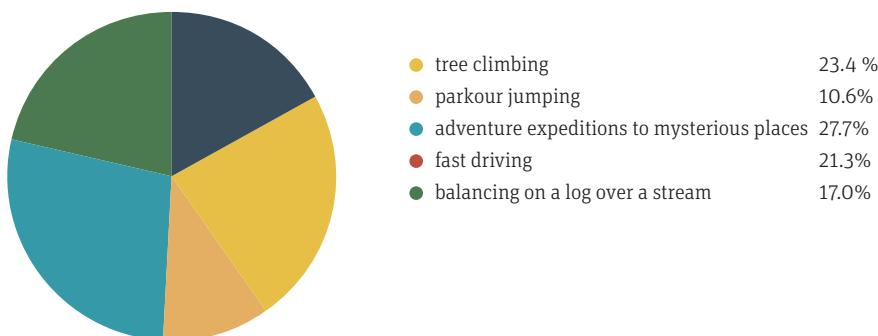
Where do children prefer to go? Every child is different and the range of favorite activities is therefore highly varied. The most popular places were **somewhere to relax (17.8%)**, **play sports (16.4%)**, where there are **a lot of trees (16.4%)** and where you can **play with water (15.1%)**.



Defining specific activities and **favorite park furniture** bring answers to the question of what outdoor elements children most often seek. The most fun elements are those that can be **climbed on (15.9%)**, **swung on (15.9%)**, **crawled through (13.6%)**, where you can **sit or stand and watch (11.4%)** and play **hide and seek (11.4%)**.



Kids like to be scared until it sends a shiver down their spine, but in the end they boasted of going on adventurous **expeditions to mysterious places (27.7%)**, **climbing trees (23.4%)** or even **riding very fast (21.3%)**.

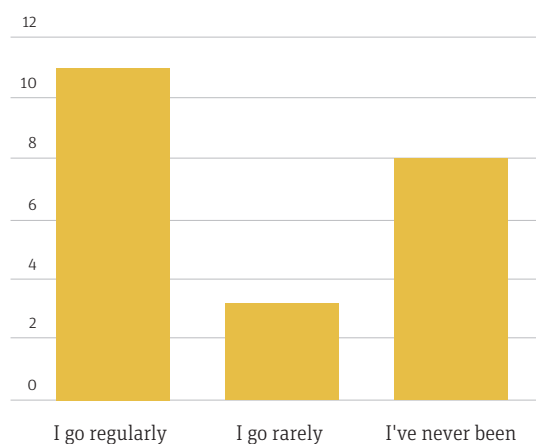


Young people 14–17 years old

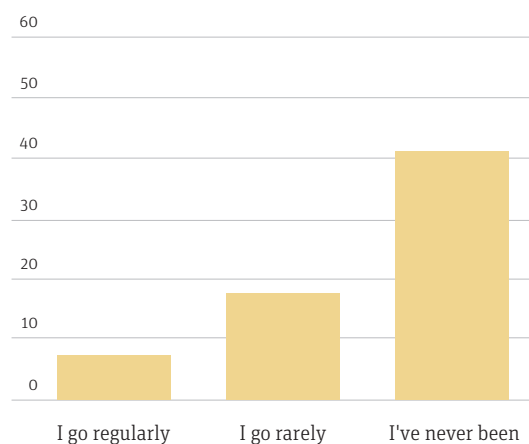
We involved **young people** in participation **through schools**. We worked with three schools in the area: PORG grammar school – a total of 45 students (fourth and sixth grade), U Libeňského zámku grammar school – a total of 45 students (1st year and 3rd year) and Bohumil Hrabal Elementary School – a total of 25 students (9th grade). The age range was 14–17 years. Their involvement was in two parts – **1: mapping the area and 2: follow-up workshops**. In the first section, students worked in the field, with each student described in detail and visually representing the assigned area (approximately 100×200m²). During the workshop, students pieced together a map model, explained legends and descriptions, presented their work and shared observations. These workshops were led by participation coordinators and aimed, among other things, at gathering feedback on the current state of the territory. Next, through moderated discussion and gameplay, we put together ideas about the future. The advantage of this two-stage effort was that the students had at least partial **knowledge of the site thanks to their fieldwork** and this allowed them to work creatively with the findings.

The following charts show how often students visit the area. The data is divided into two graphs according to the distance of residence from Rohan Island. However, all the schools are within walking distance and easily accessible. The data shows that **most young people don't know about and don't visit the area**.

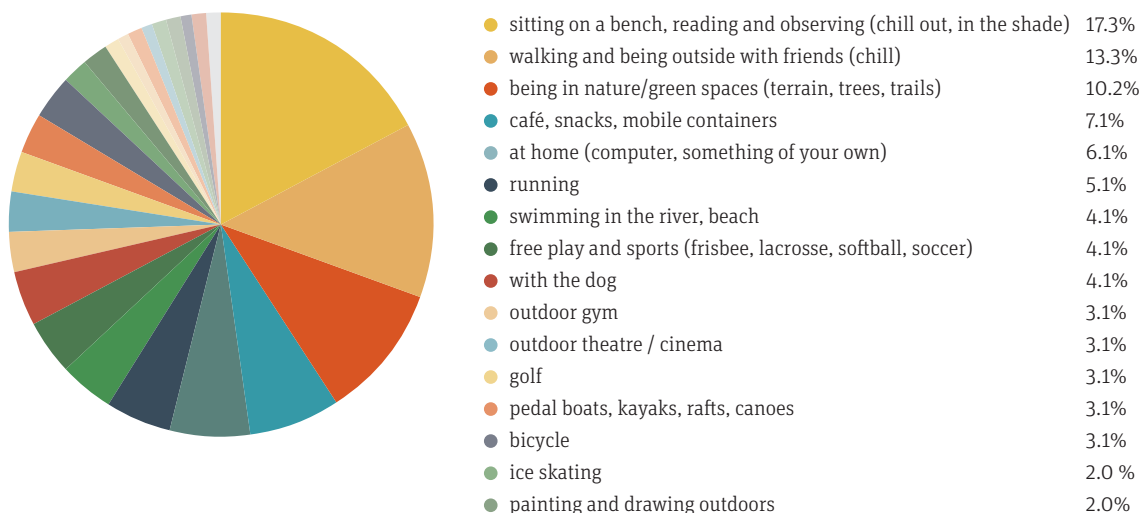
School and housing within 1 km of Rohan Island



School nearby, I live far away from Rohan Island



The following chart shows which **activities** young people **like to do outdoors**. These are various forms of active or more passive leisure activities that are popular and tend to be unorganized. This age group mostly seeks and welcomes an environment in which they can **sit undisturbed – “chill-out” (17.3%)**, go for walks and have a pleasant time **outdoors with friends, spend time in nature and greenery (10.2%)**, be able to get a **snack (7.1%)** and do a variety of other attractive activities, mostly however **on their own**.



We discussed their **ideas for the future form of the area** during a joint moderated discussion and group technique called the backwards problem solving. In this process, participants consider what they don't want the environment to look like in the future, which is the first step towards finding a positive solution. (The presented results are, of course, marked with a plus sign and tell us what young people think the future of the island should look like).

What should RI look like for you to go there?

- **Shade**
- **Access to the river**
- **Easy to navigate on foot, without fences and barriers**
- **No roads or cars**
- **No industrial zones, landfills or car dealerships**
- **No homeless camps**
- **Refreshments**
- **Places to sit down**
- **Playgrounds**
- Don't cut it all down
- Without flood barriers
- Don't let the whole thing get overgrown
- No tall buildings
- Land art/artwork, but no statues of bad politicians
- No ugly souvenir stalls and shops
- Events, yes, but not clubs or discos
- Wi-Fi
- Not overcrowded
- Greenery
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Peace and quiet
- Tidiness
- No litter or syringes
- No construction sites
- Lighting
- Sports facilities (outdoor gym, ping pong)

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06

ROHAN AND LIBEŇ ISLANDS

Homeless people

“Having a place to live, having a job, being healthy mentally and physically, having a family, having friends, being able to have fun, having a good relationship, those are the main things. There it’s about finding something nice, even if it’s just a little thing. When I meet someone I know and see they’re happy, or I go do temp work and buy myself something nice. Just don’t torment yourself or drown in worry.”

06

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 - Cooperation with field services and scenarios for the future
 - Mobile field service – facilities
 - Fixpoint
 - Involvement of homeless people in the maintenance of the territory
 - Emergency site / camping site
 - What to watch out for
 - Summary
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Introduction and method

The special attention given to homelessness stems from two main premises:

- 1)** the area is one of the most important homeless localities in Prague
- 2)** the presence of homeless people in the locality has understandable reasons (proximity to resources, convenient location in the city, etc.).

These factors have powerful inertia over time and so are likely to remain in the area even after the implementation of landscaping associated with revitalization. This text is based on background research (mainly the Analysis of Homelessness in Prague, issued: 2020) and from a series of interviews conducted with social services workers operating in the area (Salvation Army, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague, Progressive, Center of Social Services of Prague, Social Welfare Department of Prague 8 MD). As part of our research, we also spoke to several homeless people directly in the area.



Analysis of Homelessness in Prague

The description of the homeless situation in Prague is primarily based on the document Analysis of Homelessness in Prague, which was prepared by Median s.r.o. in 2020. This research found that homelessness and housing needs affect approximately 20,000 inhabitants of Prague.

- **persons without shelter** – i.e. spending the night outside, in temporary shelters and bunkhouses – approx. 3,900–4,900
- **persons without a house** – i.e. staying in various institutions and accommodations – approx. 8,700
- **persons at risk of losing their housing** or with inadequate housing – approx. 7,000

For the majority of people, their homelessness lasts at least a few years, sometimes many years. As the time spent living without permanent housing increases, it usually becomes more difficult to resolve the situation.

The City of Prague has a well-developed system of social services, but both users of social services and their providers face various limits, barriers and problems. While the needs of homeless people are generally similar, they have their own specificities and therefore what may be a solution for one group of people cannot be applied across the board.

Numbers of homeless persons

Determining the number of people without shelter, i.e. homeless people who don't live in any institution, hostel or apartment, but rather spend the night either in public spaces or in various types of makeshift shelters, tents, squats or gardening colonies, huts, shacks or trailers, seems to be the most difficult task (compared to determining the number of people in hostels, shelters and similar facilities). In the survey, it was found that up to 65% of homeless people elect to spend the night outside, in a tent or squat. The reasons that may contribute to such a decision will be described below.

Additional information regarding the distribution of homeless persons by municipal district is also important for the purposes of this report. It should be noted that the figures vary not only according to the method of data collection, but also according to how accurately and completely the individual districts report the data. Even taking into account possible deviations, it is obvious that the Prague 8 Municipal District is a place where the issue of homelessness is very topical. According to various estimates, 13–22% of people without a roof (i.e. sleeping outside any accommodation) residing in Prague are located here.

městská část	údaje z CAWI dotazování MČ	údaje Praha MČ odhady ¹³	údaje z CAPI dotazování pouze lidé bez střechy
Praha 1	2 %	13 %	17 %
Praha 2	1 %	2 %	2 %
Praha 3	4 %	6 %	4 %
Praha 4	7 %	9 %	6 %
Praha 5	12 %	8 %	12 %
Praha 6	6 %	12 %	11 %
Praha 7	4 %	7 %	9 %
Praha 8	22 %	13 %	18 %
Praha 9	7 %	3 %	9 %
Praha 10	15 %	9 %	2 %
Praha 11	1 %	2 %	3 %

městská část	údaje z CAWI dotazování MČ	údaje Praha MČ odhady ¹³	údaje z CAPI dotazování pouze lidé bez střechy
Praha 12	3 %	2 %	0 %
Praha 13	0 %	2 %	2 %
Praha 14	6 %	2 %	1 %
Praha 15	3 %	2 %	0 %
Praha 16	0 %	1 %	0 %
Praha 17	2 %	1 %	1 %
Praha 18	2 %	1 %	0 %
Praha 19	0 %	0 %	0 %
Praha 20	1 %	1 %	0 %
Praha 21	0 %	1 %	0 %
Praha 22	1 %	1 %	0 %

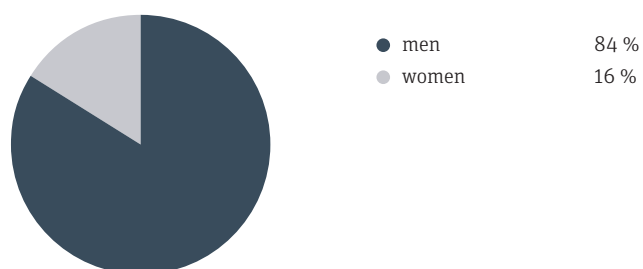
- CAWI – web-based (online) questionnaire survey – a total of 4 versions of the questionnaire were used for municipal districts, social services for homeless people, other institutions where the homeless census was conducted, and civic and other initiatives dealing with support for homeless people
- CAPI – a questionnaire survey among homeless people (in the field)
- The census was conducted in 2019.

Characteristics of homeless persons

In terms of the population structure, it can be said that among the homeless, men significantly predominate (84%), the most represented group is the middle-aged group (84% ages 31–60), reported address of permanent residence tends to be outside Prague (53%) and most homeless people live alone (without a partner or friends 59%). The social network that homeless people can turn to is also typically very small. This in itself is a problem that makes it difficult to improve their situation. They often have not only no family, partner or friends, but also no acquaintances who could help them find jobs, doctors or legal advice in dealing with the debt enforcement that are so often associated with homelessness.

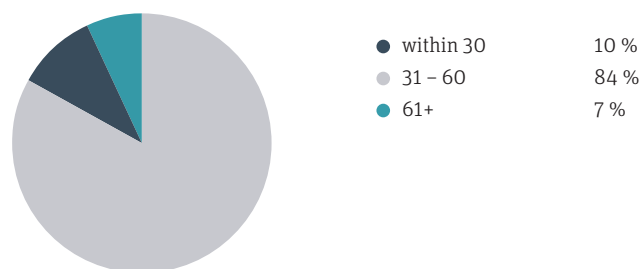
Graph no.13: Proportion of men and women

(N=274)



Graph no.14: Age groups

(N=274)



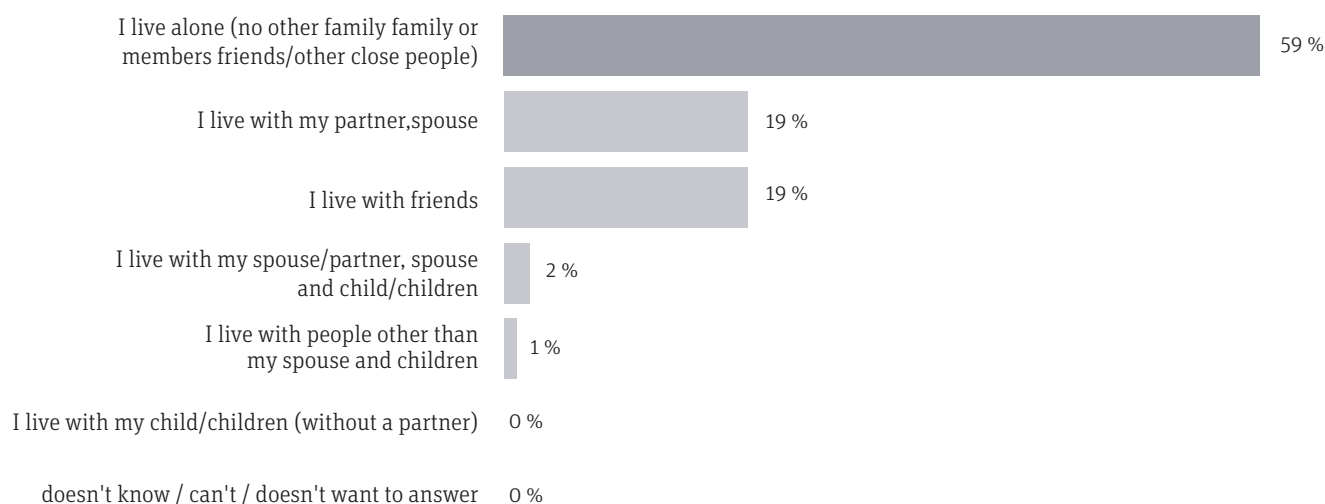
Graph no.15: Permanent residence

(N=274)



Graph no.26: Current way of living

(N=397)

**The needs of people without shelter**

In Analysis of Homelessness in Prague, the needs of homeless people are specified according to the types of accommodation they choose. Respondents were classified as people who sleep outside on the street, in non-residential premises, in bunkhouses, in regular or humanitarian hostels, in shelters. For the locality of Rohan Island, the first group is particularly interesting – people sleeping outdoors.

Forced sleeping on the streets is seen as one of the worst situations a person can get into. However, the needs of homeless people and their decision-making frameworks often do not match the understanding of mainstream society, and so sleeping outside can in some circumstances be preferred to other, more or less accessible options, especially residential social services or hostels.

Based on the in-depth interviews conducted for the Analysis of Homelessness in Prague, it can be said that sleeping outdoors better corresponds to the need for privacy and the need to be able to make one's own decisions (autonomy) than other options. A strongly perceived negative association with sleeping outdoors, one mentioned by the vast majority of respondents, is that they do not feel safe out on the streets. On the other hand, safety concerns are not uncommon in other types of accommodation, such as hostels.

When staying outdoors, you need to secure certain equipment. This usually involves warm clothing, insulation from cold from the ground, or more advanced equipment such as a tent, sleeping bags, etc. With this equipment, people without a roof can achieve a partial increase in sleeping comfort, but they also often lose or have their equipment stolen. This is also related to the inability to maintain sufficient personal items of daily use in the long term.

Possible reasons for preferring to spend the night outdoors

Here are some of the disadvantages that were mentioned by respondents when describing other ways of spending the night than outdoors. These may be the reasons that lead people to decide to sleep without a roof. In the case of bunkhouses, this was the set arrival and departure times that did not coincide with their need to be away from the bunkhouse, for example due to work commitments. For bunkhouses and hostels, a frequently mentioned issue was dissatisfaction with the state of cleanliness of the environment and inadequate sanitary conditions (including the presence of parasites). At first glance, this may seem paradoxical compared to sleeping outdoors, but given the high concentration of people in small spaces with different hygiene habits and an often insufficient cleaning frequency, this is a relevant comment. Being made to share space with a large number of people is a problem not only for hygiene but also for the aforementioned need for privacy. For many homeless people, this need is so great that they prefer to spend the night outside, where they can retain greater autonomy and freedom of choice. These findings suggest that the solution to the issue of homelessness and the situation of the homeless would not be simply to increase the capacity of different types of public accommodation. At least not under the current conditions.

Circles of needs for houseless people (not just groups without shelter)

- Finding housing, accommodation or suitable residential services
- Work and finances
- Health
- Dealing with bureaucracy
- Debt resolution
- Improving competences

Finance

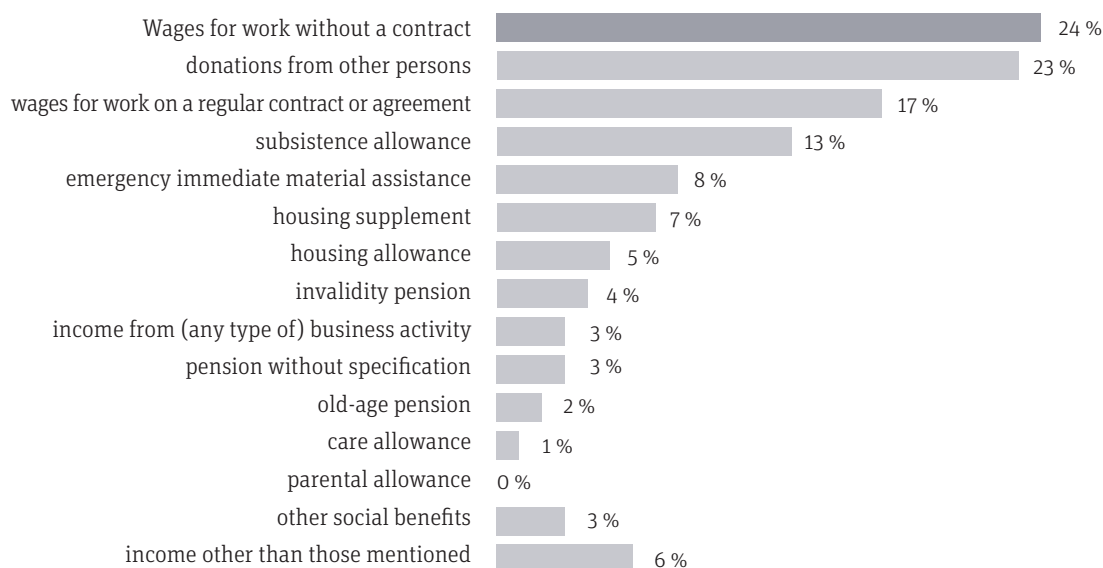
One of the most pressing problems homeless people face is, of course, their finances, or lack thereof. It is the reason they find themselves without permanent housing in the first place, and one of the main reasons why it is so difficult for them to deal with their situation. Research shows that up to 80% of homeless people are struggling due to debt and distraint. This is a secondary complication to their earning potential. If they find a job with a contract, a significant part of their income may be confiscated, they may lose any right to social security payments and may therefore paradoxically be better off financially not having a job with a legal contract. This is also the reason why undeclared work (24%) is more often cited as a source of income than contract or agreement work (17%). People without a roof over their head are thus doubly marginalized in this respect, disadvantaged, vulnerable and easily exploited in the labor market.

As many as 15% of homeless people responded that they have no income at all, and 41% of them have an income of less than CZK 2,000, which is below the subsistence minimum, while a third (32%) have an income of CZK 2,001–5,000, which is around the subsistence minimum. 24% have a higher income, most often up to CZK 12,000, while only 5% have incomes over CZK 12,000.

■ Although the Chamber of Executors states that the number of distraints in the Czech Republic is decreasing year-on-year despite the coronavirus situation, the total number of distraints and persons affected by distraint is alarming. In 2019, 775,000 people were registered as in distraint for a total of 4,460,000 distraints (source mapexekuci.cz). It is thus evident that while the issue of homelessness may seem peripheral to most of society, it is a much larger problem in terms of the number of people who are at risk of homelessness or in need of housing. The national data are relevant to this overview of the situation on Rohan Island and in Prague, among other reasons, because up to 53% of homeless persons report their address of permanent residence outside of Prague.

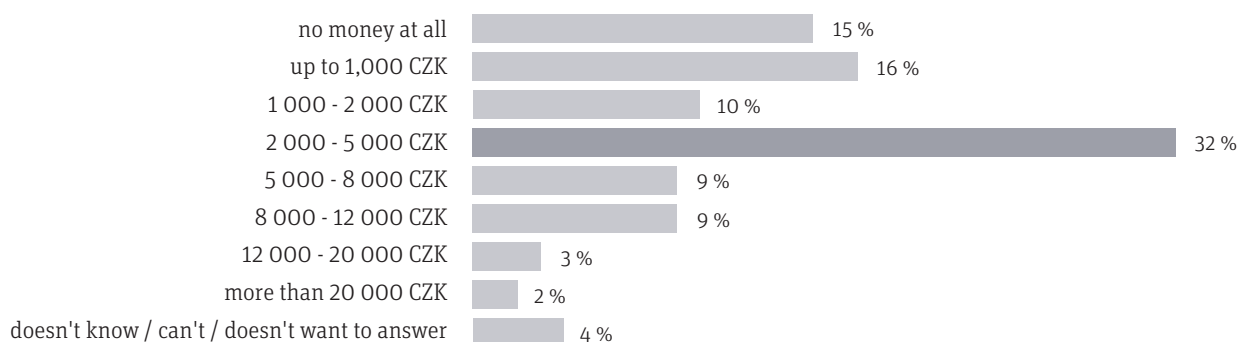
Graph no.35: Income of homeless people

(N=397)



Graph no.36: Amount of income

(N=397)



Municipal districts in Prague and their possibilities

In terms of total full time jobs, the city districts reported a total of 64 staff dedicated (not exclusively) to supporting homeless people. These fewer than seventy employees of the municipal districts are thus responsible for dealing with the issues of homeless persons or those in social need totaling 20,000 inhabitants of Prague. Insufficient staff capacity is cited as an obstacle to more intensive support for homeless people by a third of the city districts. More than two-thirds cite the lack of apartments available to be allocated as social housing as a problem, and 86% cite high rent prices and the poor availability of housing in general as obstacles.

Several districts also pointed to the resistance of citizens of the city district to initiate activities in support of the target group of homeless people and problems/obstacles to the establishment of new social services in the territory of the municipality. Nobody responded that they considered support for the target group to be sufficient or that they saw the problem being an insufficient survey of the homeless population in their municipal district.

The Rohan Island Territory

For Prague, Rohan Island is currently the largest homeless area in the city. Rohan Island is one of the last locations with so-called homeless settlements. A location in the city center – such as Anděl – can be used for comparison. In that area, there are a lot of people who are living entirely without facilities – on benches, at bus stops. On Rohan Island, conversely, there are settlements – tents, shelters. There used to be more similar locations in Prague (around Kolbenova Street, Klíčov, around the Hostivař Depot). (Desenský; Drozd, Salvation Army). The presence of homeless people in the locality is based on a combination of several factors:

- **Peace and quiet and the possibility of building a shelter or just spending the night.** The location is relatively tolerated. “Homeless people who live in RI are less of a problem for the police compared to people directly on the street, public transport stations and the like.” (Holíková, Prague 8). “The cops are sometimes annoying, but mostly they’re ok. They’re just doing their jobs.” (tent settlement inhabitant) It’s not a regular thing, but we’ve also heard a story about a local resident being fined by a patrolling policeman for scooping up river water into a bucket.
- **The presence of water** (utility water from the Vltava, but sometimes also for tea). “The Vltava is absolutely essential. We call it ‘Hotel Vltava’” (tent settlement inhabitant)
- **Possibility to build a small fire** and firewood. In the words of a local resident, “You’re not allowed to burn things here, but the cops usually understand having a small fire (to make tea, etc.)”
- **Good accessibility to the city center**, public transport, but also on foot
- **Availability of social services in the locality.** “We go to the MTS(mobile outreach service) , but it’s not essential. That won’t keep us on our feet.” (tent settlement inhabitant)

The locations where homeless people (without shelter) are found can be mapped during a thorough walk through the area in question. Ascertaining the precise number of people is more complicated. Here, it is more important to take into account longer-term indicators – such as regular reports from the police or social service workers. For example, here are the data from the census conducted at the request of the Prague 8 city district in 2019. From this we can see the numbers are very variable. In general, it can be stated that the population decreases during the winter and residential zones then also become more concentrated.

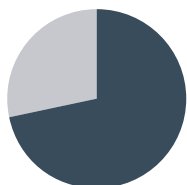


Route No. 4

Locations: Rohan Island, Rohan embankment – tents behind the concrete plant, changing rooms of the former volleyball club + trailer etc., Libeň Island, former Voctářova street car dealership, opposite Kaufland.

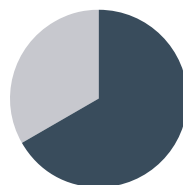
Number of persons counted:

1. day
Total 32



● Men 23
● Woman 9

2. day
Total 18



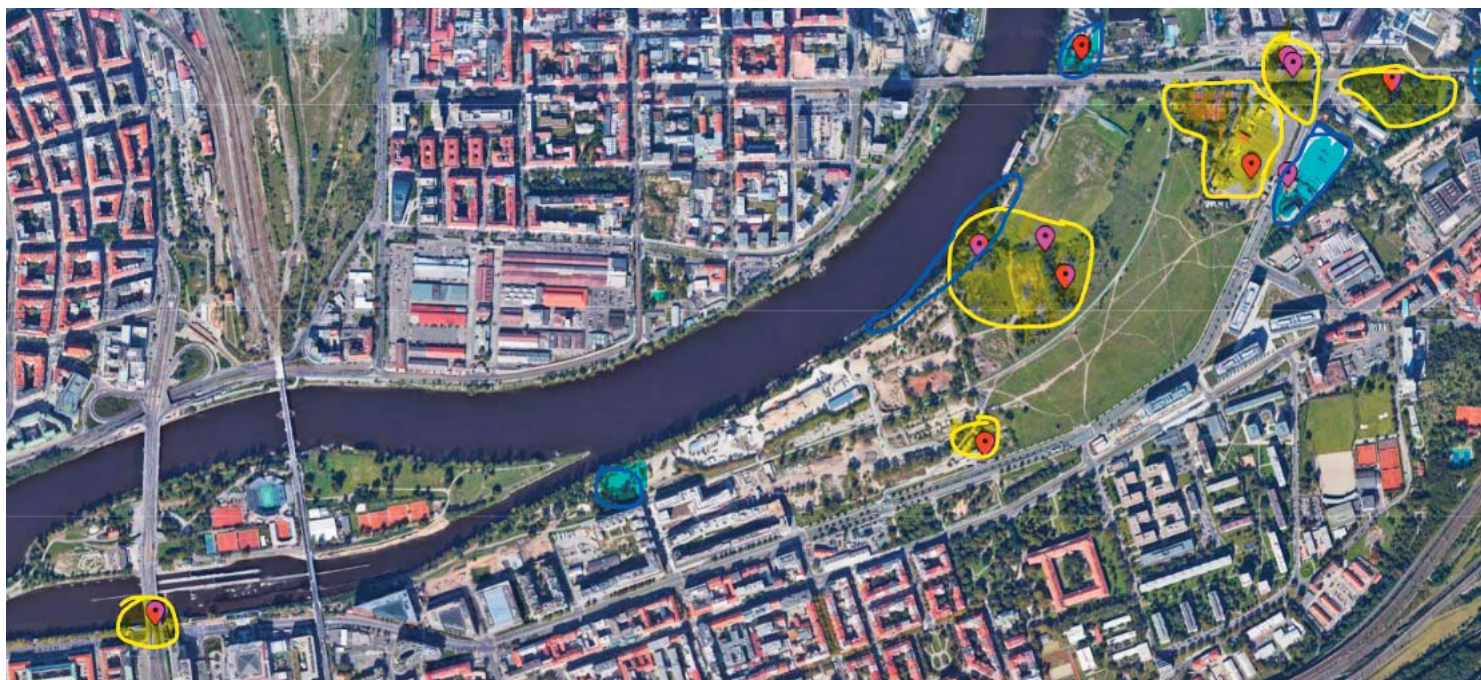
● Men 13
● Woman 5

As far as the location is concerned, there are only a few regularly inhabited sites (yellow on the map). People here live in tent settlements, in unused buildings (e.g. changing rooms) or directly under Libeň Bridge itself. However, constant change and fluctuation is common with this issue and so the population and its numbers are constantly changing. “There used to be a lot of people under Libeň Bridge, then it was cleaned up and they moved out, now they’re back again.”. A separate issue remains the people who inhabit the areas north of Libeň Bridge – in small garden buildings, tents on private land, in caravans or directly on boats. Unfortunately, we haven’t been able to find out more than a few random pieces of information about them

| “This is where the 100 year old grandfather lives, in that caravan.

He lost his flat to crooks, when he got drunk at the pub, they made him sign a piece of paper and sell his flat.”

There are also several sites of relevance to the whole area from the perspective of a person without shelter – namely: Kaufland, Voctářova, MTS – mobile field services, Palmovka, the Vltava River banks, Přístav).



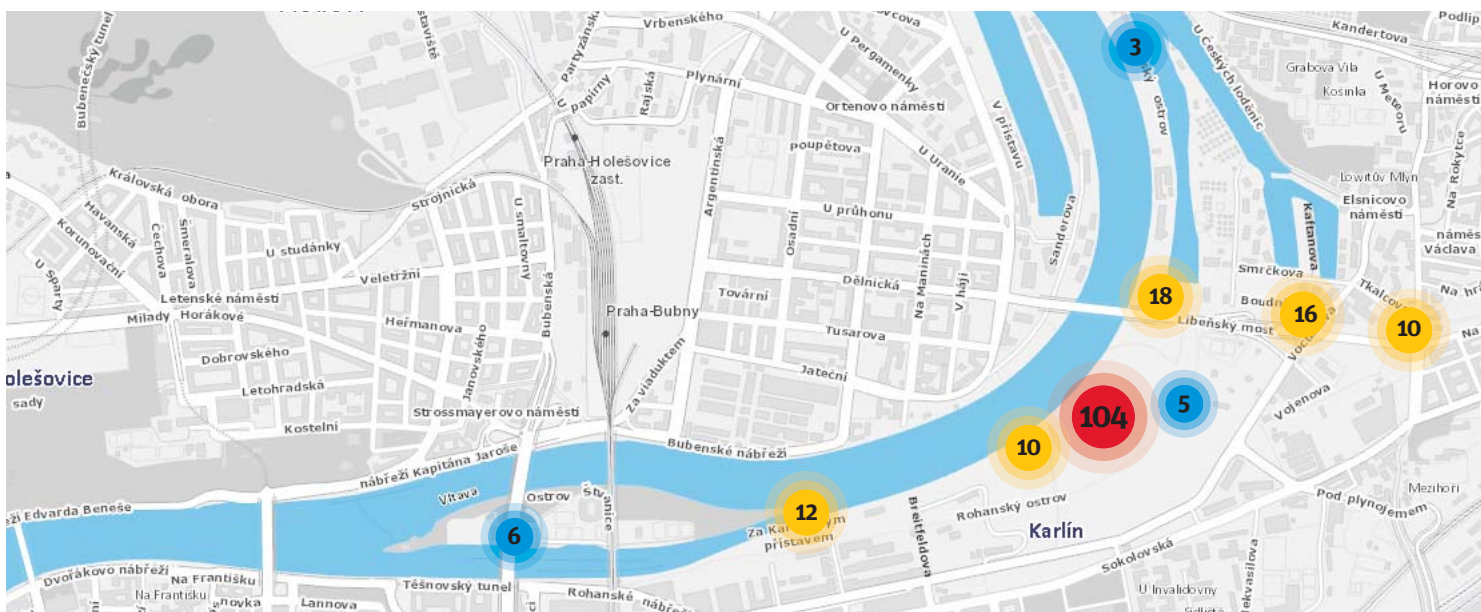
Inhabitants of Rohan Island

We cannot speak of any cohesive group of inhabitants in the locality. There are long-term residents “settlers”, short-term and essentially random “visitors”, substance abusers and homeless people who have shelter (e.g. in a caravan) but have no income and live in material distress. Groups tend to stick together and don’t interact with each other much. “We don’t talk to the people under the bridge and by the playground.” On the other hand, at least the longer-term residents know each other by sight and know about each other. “You wouldn’t know they’re homeless people – when they come out – they’re clean; there’s a guy 28 years old, he comes out smelling of perfume, he’s got a bag and nobody would know he lives under a bridge; he’s trying to get out of it” (Mrs. Jarka, interview 03/2021)

Homeless people and the public

On the contrary, what is almost characteristic of the Rohan Island locality and the subject of homelessness in general, the relatively low frequency of problems and conflicts compared to other places in Prague. This theme resonated quite significantly among responses to the online questionnaire conducted in May 2021 in preparation for the Rohan Island Concept. According to the respondents, the presence of homeless people practically copies the locations reported by professionals working in the area. However, the “settlement” location between the golf course and the concrete plant is of the greatest perceived importance as it is the most “in plain sight”. People most often report a **reduced sense of security or comfort** and problems with **litter**, which they associate with the presence of people without shelter. But almost no one mentioned any real conflicts. There are specific concerns about syringes or dogs running loose (running about in between cyclists’ bikes). The feeling of danger stems from unpredictability of behavior (e.g. a person under the influence) rather than from any real threat. Smoke from bonfires when poor quality material and waste are burned is also a nuisance. “There are some complaints from the public, **but there are no conflicts. People are more just bothered by having to look at homeless people.**” (Holíková, Prague 8 city district) The operator of the car dealership near Libeň Bridge mentioned specific problems in an interview, saying one of the homeless people is sneaking into his parked cars.

Even from the point of view of the police, the locality is perceived as relatively trouble-free – the police tend to visit the site as part of regular patrols rather than for one-off interventions with a specific cause. “In the RI locality, which is depopulated, homeless people are less of a problem for the police than they are for example in Palmovka.” This allows the police to function in other ways than merely law enforcement. It cannot be said that the police are only a repressive force, they often have a positive approach to our clients.” (Fiala, Caritas Prague) “When the police find a client they feel should be connected to a support service, they get them in touch with a social worker from the district.” (Holíková, Prague 8 MD)



The points and numbers shown on the map indicate the repetition of the keyword “homeless”. The area of the “settlement” with the number 95 clearly dominates.

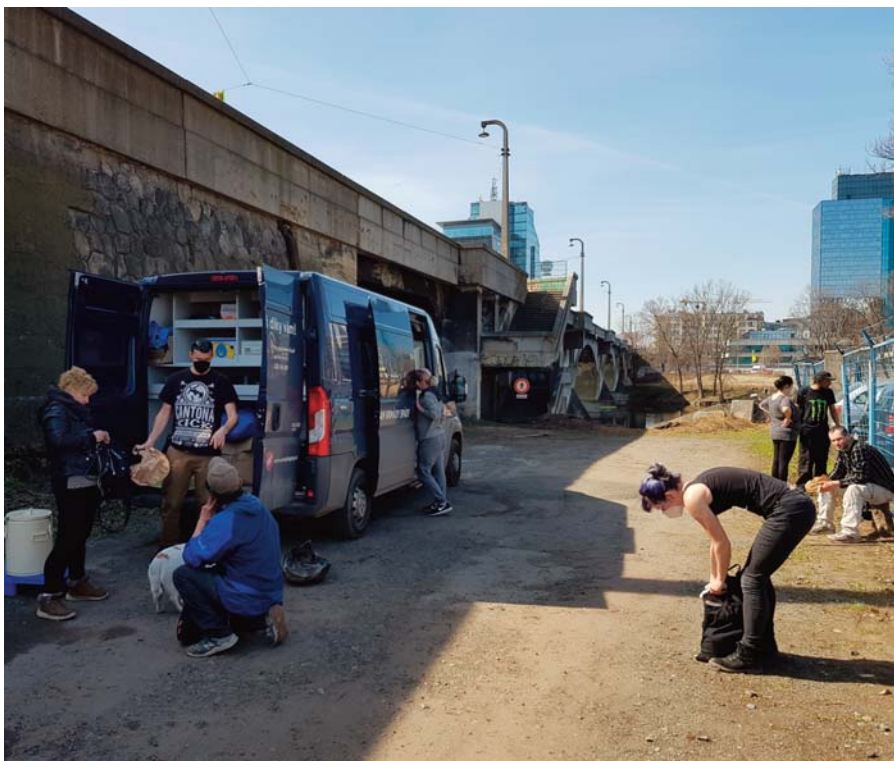
Cooperation with field services and scenarios for the future

The Salvation Army and Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague are the main organizations working with the homeless on Rohan Island. Both have outreach programs there and both operate shelters in the vicinity – the Salvation Army on Tusarova Street in Holešovice and Caritas on Pernerova Street in Karlín. The Salvation Army has set up a station for the MTS (mobile field service) at the Libeň Bridge. Concerning care for drug addicts, the Progressive and Drop In organizations are active here, mainly implementing their outreach programs – visiting clients, counseling, providing syringe exchange and other assistance.

Mobile field service – facilities

We talked about the field service with the field worker Mr. Rakušan. According to him, quite a significant feature of the Rohan Island residents is that they cooperate with field social services and generally tend to take care of the place and stay there. In 2020, there was a fairly significant effort to clean up the site, but this was eventually discontinued due to complications with the Covid-19 outbreak (failure to arrange for a container to be brought in). But the local residents were interested in participating. Around 50 people use MTS services during the summer, which is one day a week when a van with a field food dispenser and small clinic for basic treatment is brought on site. Roughly one third of the clients are residents of the locality, while the rest commute to the MTS or come from further afield. Things the MTS needs in place at a very basic level include: a **paved area** that can be reached by van, a degree of privacy (“not to be seen too much”) and good transport accessibility for clients. It is important to consider the effects of combining various different operations (kindergarten, shopping center, town hall, etc.). An added benefit would be a **covered area** for serving food (“It’s pretty undignified here in the snow and rain sometimes.”), the **possibility of storing** a few beer sets, a **trash can** or a dumpster. If there was access to potable water for hand washing or a **mobile shower connection**, that would be great. (Rakušan, Salvation Army MTS)

Of these spatial and other requirements for the location of the MTS, the ideal location seems to be the one that is already used for this service in the area – i.e. near the pillars of Libeň Bridge on the right bank of the Vltava River.



Fixpoint

In terms of care for drug addicts, the installation of one or more “fixpoint” devices would be worth considering, allowing potentially hazardous waste in the form of used syringes to be safely stored in a small inaccessible container. A strong argument for placement of the fixpoint is that it should be “where the clients take, not where they pass through” (Plaček, Progressive). The topic of concerns for infectious waste after drug use in the territory resonates quite significantly among the responses to the e-questionnaire launched among the general public in preparation for the Concept. Placement of the fixpoint could also be justified on this basis.

Involvement of homeless people in the maintenance of the territory

One of the most pressing needs of people without shelter in general is the possibility of earning an income. Finding even a one-off job can be very difficult for many reasons (see Chapter 2, Analysis of Homelessness). If a system of providing services in return for services (e.g. cleaning for food or meal vouchers) could be implemented locally, this might be an example of good practice. Not only abroad, but also in Prague there is at least one similar program – known as Homeless Blues in Prague 9. Homeless people are offered living quarters in exchange for taking care of their surroundings, with the understanding that this should be only temporary housing, allowing for resocialization and subsequently moving to regular housing. Although statistically only a few clients of this program have found subsequent housing, from our point of view the project cannot be evaluated as a failure. Considering the prices of apartments and rentals in Prague, which are often high even for middle-income groups, this is actually not a very surprising result.

- | “We see most people trying to have a better attitude not only towards themselves but also towards their surroundings.”
- | “Officially, we have seven homeless people working on a part-time basis as orderlies and cleaners, and others are working, for example, as parking attendants for private companies in Prague 9, etc.” (K. Valenta, 16 December 2019)
- | “We’ve also reduced the cost of clean-ups and eliminating illegal waste dumps – cooperating homeless people call us on their own and take photos of problematic spots.”

Most of the participants left the Homeless Blues project early because they were not sufficiently able to take care of their assigned area. Nevertheless, there are a few long-term residents who take care of their dwelling and raise animals. Interviews with members of the public indicate that the site is neater and safer from their perspective than before the project.

A possible pitfall of this project and others like it, is that it is not systematically linked to social work, the field work is rather haphazard and therefore does not allow participants to work systematically on solving individual barriers to obtaining standard housing. The issue of homelessness is a very complex one, and its solutions need to be comprehensive.

- | “If they made a park here, I would take care, live, maintain and do what I have to do because I don’t want to move anywhere else” (Mrs. Jarka, interview 03/2021)



¹ zdroj: Brífink k projektu Prahy 9 Homeless Blues (Štěpán Ripka, poradce radního HMP Adama Zábranského, 8. 1. 2020)

Emergency site / camping site

In connection with the Covid-19 epidemic, Prague was forced to build an emergency tent city for homeless people who came into contact with the virus. This “little town” was built in Troja near the city ring road in April 2020 with the help of the army. Theoretically, such a site for emergency situations (epidemics, severe winters, etc.) would make sense as part of Prague’s crisis infrastructure and perhaps the Rohan Island area would be a good fit for it. Realistically, it would be used minimally, but in a crisis there would be the necessary space, with electricity and water connections.



What to watch out for

It is worth mentioning here the relatively “thorny” nature of the topic and the very low political will to pass any measures concerning this issue. It is therefore advisable to communicate topics and measures predominantly internally and among experts, and to think carefully about any communication towards the general public.

Do not propose permanent solutions and measures. Regarding the siting of an emergency campsite or MTS station or shower site – here it is important to remember that access to such a facility is considered a resource to some extent. And this can lead to certain conflicts. “It could go wrong, they’d kick out the nice older gentlemen and the drug addicts would take over.” (Drozd, Salvation Army). A permanent facility cannot operate without supervision. So the recommendation is rather to set up something that functions intermittently but under improved conditions than today. A measure for intermittent traffic could also have better political traction.

Take care of maintenance and ongoing servicing. If any infrastructure is to be installed in the area, it is essential that the issue of its governance is well resolved. For example, waste bins would be very helpful in the area, but if they are not balanced, their total effect might tend to be negative.



Summary

Homelessness is a significant issue for the territory in the context of the forthcoming Concept. This is due to both – by Prague standards – the significant concentration of people without shelter here, as well as the mental image their presence evokes in visitors and users of the space. In a way, homelessness is starkly “visualized” here, which may be a result of the strong contrasts one experiences in the area. For example, seeing golfers on the green playing golf a few meters away from homeless dwellings hidden in the urban wilderness. Rohan and Libeň islands offer one of the last options for homeless people to spend their nights outdoors in inner Prague outside of specialized facilities such as hostels, shelters, etc. Detailed field research on homelessness is somewhat pioneering and could establish good practices in terms of greater attention as part of zoning planning processes instead of turning a blind eye to this fact.

Zpracoval:

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04 – 07 2021

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